WEST VIRGINIA JEWRY:
ORIGINS AND HISTORY
1850-1958

ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING

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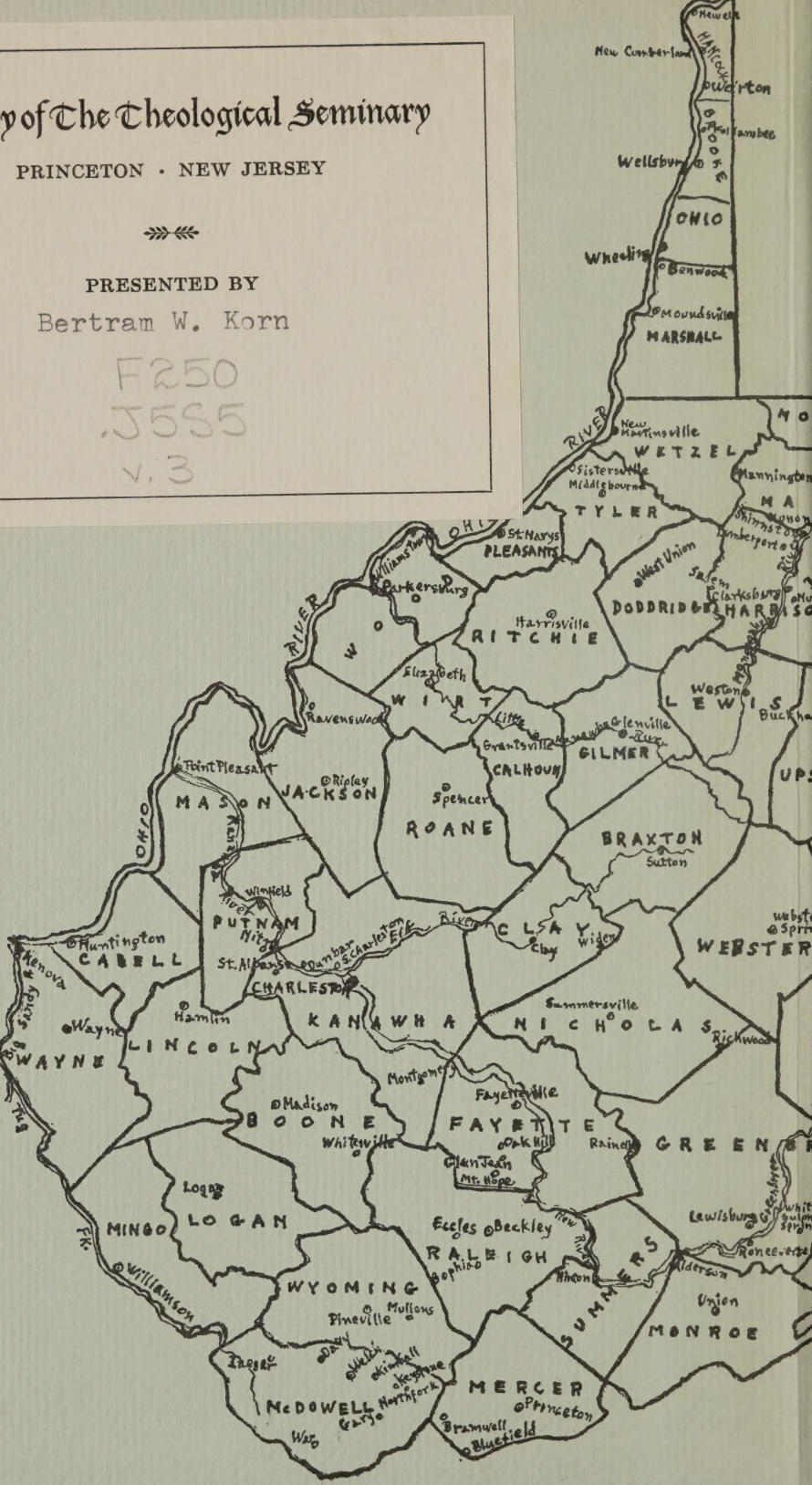

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WEST VIRGINIA JEWRY:

ORIGINS AND HISTORY

1850 – 1958

Books by Abraham I. Shinedling

History of the Beckley Jewish Community (Beckley, W. Va.) (with Manuel Pickus) (1955)

History of the Los Alamos Jewish Center (Los Alamos, N. Mex.) (1958)

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WEST VIRGINIA JEWRY:

ORIGINS AND HISTORY

1850—1958

By

ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING

Volume III

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WEIRTON

GENERAL

Weirton is a city in Hancock County, in the northern tip of the industrial Northern Panhandle of West Virginia, located on the Ohio River 26 miles north northeast of Wheeling. Up to the year 1947 it was known as an unincorporated steel-manufacturing "company town," but in 1947 it was incorporated as a city, including the neighboring towns of Holliday Cove, Marland Heights, and Weirton Heights. It is noted for its steel manufactures.

In 1950, according to the United States Census, Weirton had a general population of 24,005; in 1957, its general population was estimated to be well over 31,000. Previously, the general population of Weirton had been 12,960 in 1940.

The founder of what is now the city of Weirton, Ernest Tener Weir, died at Philadelphia, Pa., on June 26, 1957, at the age of 81. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on August 1, 1875, and lived in Pittsburgh all his life. In April, 1957, he retired from his position as chief executive officer and chairman of the Board of the National Steel Corporation, at Pittsburgh.

Ernest T. Weir, in 1901, at the age of 26, was serving as the manager of the Monessen, Pa., plant of the American Tin Plate Company. Four years later, in 1905, he and a small number of associates bought a rundown tinplate mill in West Virginia, and later Weir became the president of this organization. He bought a mill site on a bend of the Ohio River, just about 25 miles above Wheeling, and this site became the center of a community which he called Weirton, after his family name. In 1916 he changed the name of his company to the Weirton Steel Company, having named the new development and the city after himself. In 1929 he formed the National Steel Corporation out of the Weirton Steel Company, the Great Lakes Steel Company, and several other organizations, and he managed to secure a large portion of the steel business of the American automobile industry. Ernest T. Weir is described in his obituary

notices in the daily newspapers in late June, 1957, as "a classic embodiment of the rugged individualist."

The Jewish Population of Weirton

1916

16 families

1917

69 Jews, out of a total population of less than 1,000

1936

1936 Census of Religious Bodies

Weirton and Hollidays [Holliday] Cove (by county: Hancock) are listed as having 350 Jews, a figure which is much too high. Perhaps 125 to 150 Jewish population would be more accurate for the year 1936.

1937

Butler District (Weirton) (Hancock County)
1 congregation, with 350 Jews

(This figure, cited in a volume of the *AJYB*, is also much too high; it was later corrected in the *AJYB* to a Jewish population of 150.)

1948

300 (estimated)

1950

300 (estimated)

1953

110 families

1954

300 or over (estimated)

1955

350 (estimated)

1956

350 (estimated) (*AJYB*, Volume 58, 1957)

1957

350 (estimated)

1959

Estimated Jewish population: 350 (*AJYB*, 1960, Volume 61, page 8)

Random Notes on the Weirton Jewish Community

In the five-year period from 1936 to 1941, L. Mervis, of Weirton [Hollidays (Holliday) Cove], was a new member of the J. P. S. A. In 1957 to 1959, Beth Israel Sunday School was the sole member of the J. P. S. A. from Weirton, having joined in 1949.

Libby and Shirley Mervis, sisters, of Weirton, the cousins of Rabbi Leonard J. Mervis, married two men from Princeton, W. Va.; the former married Yankee Barbakow, of Princeton, the son of Harry Barbakow; the latter married Moses (Moe) Nelson, the brother of Frank Nelson, of Princeton. In or about 1955, Moses and Shirley Mervis Nelson settled in Bluefield, W. Va.

During the 1950's, Dr. David Thompson, of Weirton, a dentist, was active in the B'nai B'rith on the local and State Council level. In 1955, he was elected a vice president of the B'nai B'rith State Council.

Mrs. Pearl Rosenshine, a daughter of a Mr. Greenberger, of Follansbee, W. Va., was living in Weirton in 1958; her husband (A. J. Rosenshine) was an attorney in Weirton. Another daughter of Mr. Greenberger, of Follansbee, Esther Greenberger, was, in 1958–1959, operating a ladies' store in Weirton, but resided in nearby Steubenville, Ohio.

An outstanding "native son" of Weirton is Rabbi Leonard J. Mervis, who was born in Hollidays Cove (now a part of Weirton), W. Va., on October 22, 1913. (The 1955 *Directory* of

the Alumni Association and the Department of Public Relations of the H. U. C. - J. I. R., of Cincinnati, gives his birthplace as Follansbee, W. Va. [where some members of the Mervis family did and still do reside].) Graduated from the University of Cincinnati with the A.B. degree (1935) and the M.A. degree (1937), Leonard J. Mervis was ordained by the Hebrew Union College, at Cincinnati, in June, 1939. Since then he has served continuously as rabbi, of Temple Beth-El, Pensacola, Fla. (1939–1944), of the United Hebrew Congregation, Terre Haute, Ind. (1944–1951), and then, in Chicago, of the Washington Boulevard Temple (1951 on) and of B'nai Abraham Zion Congregation, in Oak Park, Ill. (1955 on), which position he still occupied in 1960–1961, as associate of, and successor to, Rabbi Samuel Schwartz.

History of the Jewish Community of Weirton, West Virginia

by Rabbi Nandor Marton[1]

The city of Weirton, West Virginia, built around one of the largest steel mills in the world, and situated between the mountains of West Virginia and the Ohio River, four miles north of Steubenville, Ohio, and about twenty-five miles north by northeast of Wheeling, West Virginia, was incorporated in 1947 with a population of over 25,000. It is a city of some forty nationality groups.

The beginnings of Jewish life in Weirton go back to 1909, the very year in which the founder of the city, Ernest T. Weir, came from Clarksburg, W. Va., where he successfully operated a tin mill. Weir bought a farm, near Holidays [Holliday] Cove, on which he erected the first plant which became, in time, the center of the Weirton Steel Company, now covering an area of

[1] The following presentation of the "History of the Jewish Community of Weirton, West Virginia" is excerpted from an article written for me by Rabbi Nandor Marton, minister of Beth Israel Congregation, of Weirton, in 1953, and deposited as a historic document in the files of the American Jewish Archives, of Cincinnati.

about three square miles. In 1909, Samuel Geffner, an immigrant from Roumania, came to Weirton from New York City with his bride, at a time when the town was in its infancy. He opened up in business as a pack-peddler, later becoming a storekeeper in a little storeroom. A short time later, he acquired a partner, Baer Rabinovitz, the second Jew to settle in Weirton. The third Jew to settle in the town was Ralph Nach, who came from Follansbee, W. Va. His wife, Dora Nach, became the mother of the first Jewish child born in Weirton — Sarah Nach, who in 1953 was the wife of Emanuel Volkin. Many of the early Jewish settlers in Weirton were pack-peddlers or little storekeepers, poor in material means, but loyally Jewish, who traveled the 39 miles east to Pittsburgh at frequent intervals or the four miles south to Steubenville by horse and buggy or by trolley in order to secure kosher food and religious equipment.

The synagogue in Weirton was formed in 1916, under the name of Beth Israel Congregation. In 1953, its officers were:

Honorary President: Samuel Geffner
President: Max Kuntz
Vice President: Sam Abrams
Secretary: Louis Forgash
Treasurer: Edward Rubenstein
Gabbai [Warden (of the Cemetery)]: Ralph Nach
Fund Chairman: Morris Kempler

Early in the spring of 1916, when there were about fifteen Jewish families in the city, the congregation was formed, and since they [its members] did not have sufficient means to buy or to build their own synagogue building, they rented a hall on Avenue D. Here the first services, the Selichos [prayers for the forgiveness of sins] services were held before New Year (Rosh Hashanah) in 1916, conducted by Ralph Nach. The first president of the new congregation was J. Levy. The congregation used a Sefer Torah which had been borrowed from [the congregation in] Steubenville.

Several years later, after an increase in the Jewish population of Weirton, the sum of $1,500 was raised for a synagogue, and a building was purchased on County Road by Samuel Geffner.

A down payment was made. Frank Lincoff was president at that time. In 1921, Jacob Perlman served as the rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation, which has been Orthodox from its very inception. In 1919, the Beth Israel Ladies Auxiliary was organized, with Mrs. I. Levendorf as its first president. Some years later its name was changed from the Beth Israel Ladies Auxiliary to the Beth Israel Sisterhood. Rabbi Levendorf [his first name is now unknown] became the minister of the congregation in 1924, and while he was serving, the new synagogue of the congregation was built, on a lot purchased at the corner of West Street and Virginia Avenue, where the present synagogue is located. The new building was completed and dedicated in 1927.

In 1953, the Jewish community of Weirton numbered 110 families. The synagogue built in 1927 now being inadequate, Al Izenson was appointed chairman of a Building Committee to arrange for the erection of a new synagogue.[1] The present rabbi of the congregation [he was still serving in this position in 1957–1958] is Nandor Marton, who came to the city from Middletown, Ohio, in 1949. Under his guidance and instruction, the first confirmation service was held, in June, 1949, with a group of eleven boys and girls being confirmed. Beth Israel Congregation has a Hebrew School with 22 students attending four days a week; and a Sunday School with 60 children and 5 teachers. The services at Beth Israel Temple are modern Orthodox.

A Zionist group was organized in Weirton (the Tri-State Area) in 1925, under the aegis of Ben Dovid, Harry Dovid, and Louis Forgash. Dr. Simon Sacks was its first president. Ben Dovid was its first vice president, and Louis Forgash its first secretary and treasurer. The new association collected large sums of money for the Jewish National Fund.

A Hadassah chapter was organized in Weirton in 1931, with Mrs. Harry Seigel serving as its first president.

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[1] This new synagogue had not been completed by 1957–1958, apparently, for no further mention of it is made in Rabbi Nandor Marton's account, or in his several letters to me written in 1956 to 1957.

The Weirton B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 1658, was organized in 1946, in which year it secured its charter [from District Grand Lodge, No. 3]. Its first president was A. J. Rosenshine; in 1953, it had some fifty members. Curtis Greenberg was president of the Weirton B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 1658, in 1953.

Weirton Jewry has annually contributed to the United Jewish Appeal. In 1952, the Jewish community of Weirton raised the sum of $12,000 for the U. J. A.

In 1953, the Beth Israel Sisterhood and the Weirton chapter of Hadassah were merged into one group, under the presidency of Mrs. Irving Silver.

Weirton Jewry contributed, as a group, besides personal gifts, the sum of $1,000 to the new Weirton General Hospital. Dr. Meyer Bogarad was appointed the chief of its medical staff upon its opening.

Notes on Members of the Weirton Jewish Community

Meyer Bogarad. Dr. Meyer Bogarad serves as chief of the medical staff of the Weirton General Hospital. His son, Martin S. Bogarad, who, in 1958–1959, was a practising attorney in Weirton, married Joan Mae Silverman, daughter of the late Dr. Bernard E. Silverman and Faye R. Silverman, of Beckley, at Temple Beth El, in Beckley, with Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling as the officiant, on September 4, 1955.

Al Izenson. Al Izenson, a resident of Weirton, was the owner of a furniture store in Wellsburg, W. Va., ten miles from Weirton, in 1957–1958.

Merrill E. Levy. Merrill E. Levy, of Hollidays Cove [Weirton], W. Va., served as a staff sergeant in the United States Army in the Second World War. He was awarded the Air Medal, 1 Oak Leaf Cluster.

Nandor Marton. Rabbi Nandor Marton, who came from Middletown, Ohio, to Weirton as rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation early in 1949, was still serving in that position in 1957–1958. In May, 1956, he was elected president of

the Weirton Ministerial Association, and at the same time he was serving as vice president of the Weir High School Parent Teachers Association.

Lewis Newman. Lewis Newman, of Weirton, at first a cadet, served as a lieutenant in the United States Army in the Second World War. In the course of the War, he died in non-combat service, at Pritchett, Colo. (1943–1944).

Dr. David Thompson. Dr. David Thompson, of Weirton, a local dentist, was, in November, 1955, elected 3rd vice president of the West Virginia B'nai B'rith Council. In May, 1956, he was elected its 2nd vice president, and in May, 1957, he was elected its 1st vice president, for the term 1957–1958.

Lester S. Zeff. Lester S. Zeff, of Hollidays [Holliday] Cove (Weirton), W. Va., served in the United States Army, in the Second World War, with the rank of 1st lieutenant. He was awarded the Purple Heart; the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; and the Presidential Unit Citation.

WELCH

GENERAL

Welch is a coal mining city in McDowell County, in southern West Virginia, 24 miles west northwest of Bluefield, and located at the confluence of Elkhorn Creek and the Tug Fork River. It is the county seat of McDowell County. Welch is the center of a coal mining and lumber area; this area includes the nearby villages and towns of Iaeger, Keystone, Kimball, North Fork, and War. McDowell County, and especially Welch, are sometimes called "the nation's coal bin." Welch was settled in the year 1885. It is the site of a State hospital, and is located on the main line of the Norfolk & Western Railway between Norfolk and Cincinnati. The city of Welch was named after Captain I. [Isaiah] A. Welch, who came to Bramwell, W. Va., about the year 1883, as a civil engineer and mine promoter, and later became the purchasing agent of the Bluestone Land Company, in Bramwell.

According to Mrs. Samuel Solins and Mrs. Paul W. Jones, in their book, *McDowell County History: A Pictorial History of McDowell County, West Virginia*, covering both the old and the new (1959), published and compiled by Mrs. Solins and Mrs. Jones, the latter the trustee for the Colonel Andrew Donnally Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Isaiah [A.] Welch, the surveyor after whom the city of Welch was named, "made an early survey of coal potentialities [in the region], and engaged in extensive real estate development." He investigated other mineral and timber possibilities, as an employee of financial interests, and took options, together with other persons, on several large tracts of land in McDowell County. Their little volume is a most fruitful source for many data on the history of the general and Jewish community of Welch and on other cities and towns in McDowell County.

According to Samuel Solins, of Welch, the husband of the above-named co-author of the valuable volume on McDowell County, many years ago "a Pennsylvania Jew by the name of . . . Landberg had owned some 200,000 acres of land in and around McDowell County, and deeds to many properties in this area were traceable back to Landberg's grants. . . ."

In 1950, according to the United States Census, Welch had a general population of 6,603. Previous general population figures for Welch include: 6,264 in 1940; and 5,376 in 1935.

Presentation by Mrs. Samuel Solins and Mrs. Paul W. Jones[1]

Welch, in 1959, was reported to have a general population of 6,600. However, it is the trading center and the commercial center of a total population of close to 100,000 in the surrounding country of McDowell County. It is 1,300 feet above sea level, and is surrounded by high mountains. Hills bisect the city of Welch in almost every part.

Mac Armour Gambill, of Welch, author of a chapter in Mrs. Solins' and Mrs. Jones's *McDowell County History*, is authority for the statement that "McDowell County is the largest bituminous coal producing county in the United States. Annually more than 20,000,000 tons of coal are taken out of the county's seventy mines by an army of approximately 12,000 workers whose average yearly income is $4,000. . . . As the county seat, Welch is dependent upon this [coal] production for . . . its continual prosperity" (*ibid.*, page 29).[2]

McDowell County

McDowell County was organized as a county of the State of Virginia on February 20, 1858, at which time Perryville (later given the name of English) was appointed to be the county seat. McDowell County was named after James McDowell (1795–1851), who served for three years as the 25th governor of the State of Virginia (from 1842 to 1844). At one time, the famous

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[1] In their above-cited volume, *McDowell County History*.

[2] In 1961, McDowell County still had a high rate of unemployment. The number of persons employed in the coal mines of the county in 1950 had declined, by 1960, from 25,000 to about 6,000.

In May, 1961, the Federal Government began its so-called "pilot food stamp project" in McDowell County, as well as in other parts of the United States, for the purpose of rendering aid to the needy and the unemployed.

Revolutionary War financier Robert Morris owned considerable land in what is now McDowell County.

The first settlers in McDowell County came as early as during the period from 1802 to 1850. However, not until the 1890's did Welch become large enough to enjoy the status of a town. One of the earliest settlers in the Welch region was Moses Cartwright, who came to the town about the year 1825, from Madison, Indiana. But even as late as the 1880's, what was later to be the city of Welch had only two or three houses and one store, and what is the present business section of the city was for the most part a farm owned and cultivated by John H. Hunt, the brother of W. G. Hunt, another early settler in what is now Welch.

J. B. Hoback was the representative of McDowell County at the First Constitutional Convention which, held at Wheeling in November, 1861, eventually led to the "secession" of the eleven western counties of Virginia from that State, to form (on June 20, 1863) what is now the separate State of West Virginia. McDowell County was, at first, not even included, officially, within the boundaries of West Virginia when it became a new State in June, 1863, having ratified the United States Constitution. As a result, there was a great deal of uncertainty as to the political status of McDowell County during the remaining twenty months of the Civil War. McDowell County men, at that time, when its population was still very sparse (in 1950, its population numbered about 95,000), served in both the Union Armies and the Confederate Armies. However, there was no actual fighting, or even skirmishing, in the county in the course of the Civil War.

Welch has been the permanent county seat of McDowell County since 1892, when an election held as between Perryville, the former county seat (whose name was later changed to English, *which see*), and Welch resulted in favor of Welch. At one time, Perryville, which had actually served as the county seat during two periods of years (1858–1864 and 1872–1892), was the largest town in the county, but was later surpassed by Welch in population and in commercial importance. Perryville, southwest of Welch, and now known solely by the name of English, was reported to have fewer than 200 population in 1959.

Welch

The railroad (the Norfolk & Western) came to Welch in the fall of 1891, at which time the town had a total of only ten houses. In 1892, Welch became the permanent county seat, and on July 12, 1894, it was incorporated and named in honor of Captain Isaiah Welch, who, in December, 1888, together with J. G. Bramwell and J. H. Duhring, "stood at the fork of the Elkhorn and the Tug Rivers and bought up the land holdings of John H. Hunt." For "one of the surveyors hired by financial interests to investigate the mineral and timber potentialities [of the region] was Captain Isaiah Welch. He and other operators, acting as agents for others or [for] themselves, had taken options on several parcels of land in the county."

The land which Isaiah Welch, J. G. Bramwell, and J. H. Duhring had purchased consisted of a little bit less than 165 acres, and the price at which it was sold is recorded as $2,155.75. This land was probably the center of the town which they planned. Five years later, in 1893, these slightly less than 165 acres were laid out into lots, and the Welch Land and Development Company was formed by the three men to sell these lots. The sales were evidently successful, say Mrs. Samuel Solins and Mrs. Paul W. Jones, in their above-mentioned volume, for, as above noted, "only a year later, on July 12, 1894, the city was incorporated and named Welch after its principal developer."

Two of the highlights of the subsequent history of Welch were the tremendous rainstorm and flood of June 22, 1901, and the noteworthy fire of January 12, 1911, which destroyed almost the entire business section of Welch. The flood of 1901 affected also the neighboring towns of Ennis, Keystone, Kimball, North Fork, and Vivian. After the fire of 1911, the erection of frame buildings in the business section of the city was permanently tabooed.

The Welch automobile parking building was the first municipally owned and operated parking building in the United States. Also located in Welch is the first building in the entire United

States which was erected in memory of the deceased veterans of the First World War.

Beno F. Howard, an attorney, has been the mayor of Welch since 1950.

Alex [Alexander] Greenawalt, of Welch, mentioned in Mrs. Solins' and Mrs. Jones's volume, may have been a Jew.

The Jewish Population of Welch

Despite its relatively small Jewish population, which never exceeded, at the most, 15 to 20 families since the beginning of the history of the Jewish community, Welch has always had a strong and consciously Jewish congregation, community, and Sisterhood organization, which played an active part, far beyond its physical numbers and strength, in the Jewish religious, organizational, and communal work of West Virginia Jewry. For many years past, possibly for more than three decades, its congregation and Sisterhood have been served by rabbis from Bluefield (full-time or part-time rabbis of the Bluefield Congregation Ahavath Sholom), or by graduate rabbis or student rabbis (rabbinical students) from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, always on a part-time, weekend basis. The Welch Congregation Emanuel has never been large enough to maintain a permanent, resident rabbi.[1]

1927

The figures for the Jewish population of Welch go back three decades to the year 1927, at which time the community had a population of 81 Jews, with one congregation (Emanuel Congregation).[2]

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[1] For congregational records to the contrary, however, *see* below.

[2] A record to the effect that in 1927 Welch had 230 Jews is in decided error. The figure of 230 for the Jewish population is very much too high, since at no time did the Welch Jewish population number any more than some twenty families, at the most. It is probable that the Jewish population of Welch in 1927, including the Jewish families of some of the above-mentioned smaller, surrounding villages and towns, was about 130 persons.

1936

Census of Religious Bodies, 1936

Welch, including Keystone, Kimball, and North Fork, smaller adjacent or near-by communities, is listed (by county: McDowell) as having 145 Jews.

1937

70 Jews (1 congregation) (estimated)

1948

104 Jews (estimated)

1950

144 Jews (estimated) (perhaps quite a bit too high)

1954–1955

144 Jews (again estimated) (apparently too high)

1955

16 Jewish families

(in Welch alone, perhaps 70 persons; inclusive of the nearby and contiguous towns and villages, perhaps as many as 100 persons)

In June, 1955, Emanuel Congregation, of Welch, had a total membership of 30 families, including the following McDowell County localities:

Welch: 16 members
Anwalt [Anawalt]: 1 member
Davy: 1 member
Keystone: 3 members
Kimball: 2 members
Mullens: 1 member (Wyoming County)
North Fork: 3 members
War: 3 members

1956–1957

144 Jews (estimated)

(Again, such estimate is much too high. All these much too

high estimates of the Welch Jewish population from 1948 on are taken from the volumes of the *AJYB.*)

1957

The Jewish population of Welch was much lower in 1957. Some Jewish families, in the years from 1954 to 1957, moved away from Welch and from the neighboring towns, which were and are included in the Welch Congregation Emanuel and the Welch Jewish community. A fair estimate of the population of the Welch Jewish community in 1957 would be about 90 to 100 persons, perhaps a few less, including about 10 children, and including also all the Jewish families and individuals of the surrounding towns and other localities mentioned above.

1958–1959

In 1958–1959, the Welch Congregation Emanuel had a total of 17 families in its membership, of which 10 were from Welch, and 7 from the nearby much smaller towns or localities of Anawalt, Davy, Keystone, Kimball, and War.

Welch Members of the Jewish Publication Society of America

1914–1915 [5675 A.M.]

Joseph Herzbrun

[1915–1916 [5676 [A.M.]

J. [Joseph] Effron
Joseph Herzbrun
S. Levinson
E. [Eugene] H. Lopinsky
H. Miller [Harry Milner?]
Dr. J. [Joseph] L. Sameth [Samath]
S. [Samuel] Solins
L. Talmage

1922–1923

J. [Joseph] Effron
Louis Gottlieb
Dr. J. [Joseph] L. Sameth [Samath]

There were no members of the J. P. S. A. from Welch in subsequent years, and none in 1957–1958.

History of Congregation Emanuel, of Welch

Instrumental in the founding and erection of Temple Emanuel, in Welch, were Herman Josephy and Joseph Herzbrun, the latter the father, and the former the uncle, of Mrs. Anna Herzbrun Katzen (Mrs. Isadore Katzen) and of Maurice D. Herzbrun, of Welch. Previous to the erection of Temple Emanuel, religious services were held in various places in Welch for the High Holy Days, and at other times when visiting rabbis came to Welch. Sometimes these religious services were held in the local Court House, at other times in the City Hall auditorium and in other places. Joseph Herzbrun served as the first president of Temple Emanuel, and was re-elected for a number of terms.

Emanuel Congregation joined the U. A. H. C. on June 22, 1950. Since its inception it has been a Reform Jewish congregation, with several members of Conservative [and even of Orthodox] tendencies both in Welch and in the surrounding smaller communities. In December, 1955, from Welch, the U. A. H. C. reported 19 contributing members, but with its outlying members in the small nearby towns it had a total membership, in 1955, of thirty families or single persons. Morton Rosensweig was president of Congregation Emanuel in 1957 to 1959, having served for many years in this office; at the same time, Samuel Solins was treasurer of the congregation. Maurice D. Herzbrun had served previously as its president.

The 1958 *U. A. H. C. Handbook* (April, 1958) listed the Welch Congregation Emanuel as affiliated with the Ohio Valley Region of the U. A. H. C. in early 1958, with Morton [Mort] Rosenzweig [Rosensweig is a variant spelling of this name] as its president, and with a membership of only 7 [families], a decline of 12 from its membership of 19 [families] as listed in the *U. A. H. C. Year Book* for December, 1955. However, it is quite probable that the figure of 7 Jewish families or members for 1958 does not include those Jewish families from Kimball, Keystone, and North Fork which had membership in the congregation, whose total membership was thus some 15 families.

One Jewish family moved away from War to Florida in the course of the year 1957.

The Welch Congregation Emanuel has never had a cemetery of its own, but uses, when it is necessary, the Jewish Section of the Monte Vista Cemetery of the Bluefield-Princeton Ahavath Sholom Congregation.

Annually, Welch Congregation Emanuel conducts its own separate United Jewish Appeal drive; it has no other general Jewish Welfare Fund. In the years from 1947 on, the Charleston rabbis, especially Rabbi Louis J. Cashdan, served as the main speakers at the annual community campaign dinner for the United Jewish Appeal drive, generally assisted by the Bluefield rabbis, including Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, on several occasions.

Additional data dealing with the history of the Welch Jewish congregation and community will be found in the reports and biographies of the student and graduate part-time rabbis of Welch Congregation Emanuel, below.

Organization of the Congregation

At the time of the organization of Congregation Emanuel, its first officers were:

President: Samuel Polon
Vice President: Joseph Herzbrun
Secretary: Harry Klein
Treasurer: Moses Hyman

The following 22 men (including the above-listed first officers of the congregation) were the charter members of Congregation Emanuel, only two of whom — Samuel Polon and Isadore Katzen — were still alive, or still living in Welch, in 1959:

Joseph Effron
Harry Einsohn
Louis Gottlieb
Joseph Heller
(later of Beckley, W. Va.)
Joseph Herzbrun
Moses Hyman
Herman Josephy
Isadore Katzen
Harry Klein
David Kohn
Louis Leventhall

Isaac Levinson
Jack Liebman
Solomon Liebman
Eugene H. Lopinsky
Harry Milner
Samuel Polon
Dr. Joseph L. Sameth [Samath]
Nathan Schechter
David Scott
Morris Simon
Simon Solins

Later, some of these charter members of the congregation moved away from Welch.

The synagogue (building) of Congregation Emanuel was erected in 1922, on Riverside Drive, some years after the organization and the prior existence of the congregation itself. According to the official records, a rabbi named H. Adler (his full first name is now unknown) was the first to officiate in the Temple, in the early 1920's. He was, apparently, a full-time rabbi, and it is possible that at the same time he served also some of the surrounding smaller Jewish communities. His successor was a man by the name of Kline, whose first name, or even his first initial, also is now unknown. While Nathaniel Share was rabbi of the Bluefield Congregation Ahavath Sholom (1932–1933), he devoted some of his time also to Congregation Emanuel, in Welch, as did also Rabbi Julius Kravetz when he served as rabbi of the Bluefield-Princeton congregation (1936–1943). Rabbi Kline was, apparently, the second and last full-time resident rabbi of the Welch congregation.[1]

Mrs. Herman Josephy was the first president of the Emanuel Temple Sisterhood, serving for ten years, after it was organized. It was originally known as the Jewish Ladies' Aid Society.

Peter [Pete] Kaufman, who, in August, 1921, was listed in Mrs. Samuel Solins' and Mrs. Paul W. Jones's book on the history of McDowell County as a charter member of the then established volunteer Welch Fire Department, was, in all

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[1] The congregational record to the effect that Congregation Emanuel, of Welch, did have two permanent, full-time rabbis, H. Adler and Rabbi Kline, is in contradiction to the previous record to the effect that the Welch Jewish community had only student or graduate rabbis from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati. The probability is great that these two rabbis were not ordained rabbis. Their exact years of service — both in the 1920's, apparently — are unknown.

likelihood, a Jew, an early member of the Welch Jewish community, and related to the three Kaufman families of nearby Kimball, W. Va.

Membership of Welch Congregation Emanuel in June, 1955[1]

(30 members from Welch and from seven smaller, nearby Jewish communities of McDowell and Wyoming counties)[2]

Welch

(16 members from Welch)

Seldon Alpert
Meyer Bell
Hershel (Leah) Fleck
Sidney Friedman
Robert S. Goldblume
Maurice D. Herzbrun
(the brother of Mrs. Anna H. [Isadore] Katzen)
Emanuel Katzen
(the son of Isadore and Anna H. Katzen)
Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen
Sam [Samuel] Lipman
H. R. Michaelson
Edward [E. M.] Newman
Samuel Polon
Sam [Samuel] Robinson
(father of Mrs. Edith R. [Jacob R.] Siegel and Lester Robinson, of Bluefield)
Morris [Mort] (Hazel) Rosensweig [Rosenzweig]
Ellis Roston
Samuel (Jimmy) Solins

Anwalt [Anawalt]

Israel Forman

Davy

Mrs. Don [Donald] Hastings

Keystone

Charles Budnick
Mrs. Harry Budnick
Julian (Gertrude) Budnick

Kimball

Abe Kaufman
Sol [Solomon] Kaufman

Mullens

Mrs. Lillian D. (George) Taxey
(In 1958, she was again residing in Welch.)

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[1] From a list furnished by Rabbi Jakob J. Petuchowski, formerly part-time student and graduate rabbi in Welch.

[2] The names of members' wives, when known or given, are put in parentheses.

North Fork

M. I. Budnick
Herman Epstein
Sam [Samuel] Rosen

War

Milton (Sarah) Gottlieb
(They moved to Florida in 1957.)
Irving (Annabelle S.) Rosen
Belman Shore

Aaron Catzen (deceased), of North Fork, was a member (together with his daughter, Ethel Catzen) of the Welch Congregation Emanuel. In previous years many of the abovementioned Welch congregational members belonged to the Bluefield-Princeton Congregation Ahavath Sholom. Samuel Rosen, of Welch (not related to the Samuel Rosen of North Fork), the father of Mrs. Faye R. (Bernard E.) Silverman, of Beckley, lived in Welch for a number of years after settling there from Chicago in the late 1920's. In 1957, Milton and Sarah Gottlieb left War, and moved to Florida, and in the following year, Mrs. Lillian D. (George) Taxey returned from her residence in Mullens to live once more in Welch.

The Officers and Membership of the Welch Congregation Emanuel in 1958–1959

The officers of Congregation Emanuel in 1958–1959 were:

President: Morris (Mort) Rosenzweig
Treasurer: Hershel (Herschel) Fleck
Secretary: Samuel Solins[1]

In the year 1958–1959, the following 17 families or individuals, 10 of them from Welch, and the remaining 7 from the nearby towns and localities of McDowell County, were members of Congregation Emanuel:

S. [Seldon] Alpert (of Welch)
Meyer Bell (of Welch)
Charles Budnick (of Keystone)

[1] There was, apparently, no congregational vice president in that year.

Julian Budnick (of Keystone)
I. [Israel] Foreman [Forman] (of Anawalt)
Sidney Friedman (of Welch)
Sam [Samuel] Goldblum [Robert S. Goldblume?] (of Welch)
Maurice D. Herzbrun (of Welch)
Emanuel L. Katzen (of Welch)
Isadore Katzen (of Welch)
Abe [Abraham] Kaufman (of Kimball)
Morris (Mort) Rosenzweig (of Welch)
Ellis Roston (of Welch)
Louis Sherman (of Welch)
Belman Shore (of War)
Mrs. Lillian [Meyer] Sneider (of Davy)
Samuel Solins (of Welch)

In addition, four or five former residents of Welch and of McDowell County, while not members of the congregation any longer, and not attending religious services in Congregation Emanuel, make small contributions to the congregation for its maintenance (1958–1960).

The Welch Sisterhood (the Emanuel Sisterhood)

The Welch Sisterhood (the Emanuel Temple Sisterhood) affiliated with the N. F. T. S. on October 11, 1923, with 34 members (many of them from the nearby towns of McDowell County mentioned above). The president at that time was Mrs. Mose [Moses] Hyman, and the secretary was Mrs. Lee Bahar. The Welch Sisterhood has, since that time, been very active locally, and in the work and activities of the W. V. F. T. S.

Mrs. Joseph Herzbrun was the first president of the Emanuel Temple Ladies' Aid, as the Welch Sisterhood used to be called during the first few years of its existence, in the late 1910's. Later it changed its name to the Emanuel Sisterhood, at which time (1923) it became affiliated with the W. V. F. T. S. and with the N. F. T. S.

Mrs. Joseph Herzbrun served for several terms in the presi-

dency of the Welch Sisterhood. Mrs. Herman (Pauline) Josephy also held an early elective post in the Emanuel Temple Ladies' Aid and in the Emanuel Sisterhood. Other Welch Sisterhood presidents were Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick, of Keystone (1953–1954); Mrs. Irving (Annabelle S.) Rosen, of War; and Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen, the incumbent president, who served for a number of years consecutively in the late 1950's (from 1955 on).

The Welch Sisterhood performs all the functions of a larger Sisterhood. Some of its members have served in high offices in the State Sisterhood; it has contributed to the National Federation's project of the House of Living Judaism, in New York, and to other projects of the N. F. T. S., even beyond its financial quotas; and it sends delegates to all annual and (later) biennial Sisterhood conventions in the State, as well as to all southern regional meetings of the State Federation. It may rightly be designated as "the biggest little Sisterhood in the entire State of West Virginia."

Most active in the work of the Welch Sisterhood on a local and State level has been Mrs. Anna H. (Isadore) Katzen, daughter of Mrs. Joseph Herzbrun, the first president of the Welch Sisterhood. Mrs. Anna H. Katzen, after serving for several years as the treasurer of the Welch Sisterhood, or as its recording secretary, and for several years holding these offices jointly, was elected president of the Welch Sisterhood. Subsequent to two years' service as president, she again became recording secretary, and held that office for some 28 years, when she was again re-elected president, in 1955. In 1957 she was again re-elected president of the Emanuel Sisterhood for 1957–1958, and in the following two years she was again re-elected for the terms 1958–1959 and 1959–1960. Thus she has served continuously as president from 1955 to 1960.

A record dating from the year 1937 lists, among others, the following six Welch Sisterhood members:

Mrs. Hyman Bell	Mrs. Ellis Roston
Mrs. Max Michaelson	Mrs. Max Roston
Mrs. Samuel Polon	Mrs. J. [Joseph] L. Sameth

Mrs. Isadore [Anna H.] Katzen was the Welch correspondent in 1936–1937 for *The Sisterhood News of West Virginia.*

Some of the monthly meetings of the Welch Sisterhood in this period were held in the homes of members.

For many years the Emanuel Sisterhood has concerned itself with the small Religious School of Congregation Emanuel. In 1957 it had five children, with sessions held on Sunday mornings, and with the student rabbi serving as the teacher on alternate Sundays during the Religious School year.

With the departure of Milton and Sarah Gottlieb from War, W. Va., in early 1957, to settle in Florida, the Emanuel Sisterhood chronicled the loss of one of its most active members over the period of the preceding years. There were 15 members in 1957–1958. In 1958–1959, the Sisterhood membership suffered a further decline to 11; in 1959–1960, it was 12.

Officers of the Emanuel Sisterhood in 1957–1958

President: Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen (re-elected)
1st Vice President: Mrs. Herschel (Leah R.) Fleck
2nd Vice President: Mrs. Charles Budnick (of Keystone)
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Morris [Mort] (Hazel) Rosensweig
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Ellis Roston
Treasurer: Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick (of Keystone)
Parliamentarian: Mrs. Morris [Mort] (Hazel) Rosensweig

Emanuel Sisterhood Officers in 1959–1960

The officers of Welch Emanuel Sisterhood elected to serve for the year 1959–1960 were:

President: Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen (of Welch)
Vice President: Mrs. Hershel (Herschel) (Leah R.) Fleck (of Welch)
Treasurer: Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick (of Keystone)
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Morris (Mort) (Hazel) Rosenzweig [Rosensweig] (of Welch)
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Ellis Roston (of Welch)

The Welch Sisterhood Membership in 1959–1960

The membership of the Welch Sisterhood in 1959–1960 was 12, as follows:

Mrs. Charles Budnick (of Keystone)
Mrs. Harry Budnick (of North Fork)
Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick (of Keystone)
Mrs. Hershel (Herschel) (Leah R.) Fleck (of Welch)
Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen (of Welch)
Mrs. Abe [Abraham] Kaufman (of Kimball)
Mrs. Samuel Polon (of Welch)
Mrs. Samuel Rosen (of Welch)
Mrs. Morris (Mort) (Hazel) Rosenzweig (of Welch)
Mrs. Ellis Roston (of Welch)
Mrs. Louis (Ethel R.) Sherman (of Welch)
Mrs. Meyer (Lillian) Sneider (of Davy)

Mrs. Samuel Rosen is the mother of Mrs. Leah (Hershel) Fleck and of Mrs. Ethel (Louis) Sherman, of Welch, as well as of Mrs. Faye R. (Bernard E.) Silverman, of Beckley, and of Irving Rosen, of War and Welch. A number of the Welch Sisterhood members, for health reasons, spend part of each year away from the community, generally in Florida, and as a result the attendance at some of the meetings of the Sisterhood is quite small.

The Welch Congregation Emanuel Sisterhood has had a hand in two State Sisterhood conventions. One State Sisterhood convention (the eleventh) was held in Welch, that of the year 1933, on October 22–23, 1933. In 1953, the Beckley Congregation Beth El Sisterhood and the Welch Congregation Emanuel Sisterhood were joint hostesses to, and co-sponsors of, the State Sisterhood convention held in Beckley on October 11–12, 1953.

At the 9th annual State Sisterhood Convention, held at Williamson, W. Va., on October 18–20, 1931, Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen, of Welch, was elected president of the W. V. F. T. S. for the year 1931 to 1932. She was re-elected to the presidency, for the year 1932 to 1933, at the 10th annual State Convention.

The 11th annual State Convention of the W. V. F. T. S. was held at Welch on October 22–23, 1933. This was a joint enterprise of the Welch Sisterhood and the then existent North Fork Sisterhood, the records state, but no other evidence of the work or even of the existence of the North Fork Sisterhood is extant. Mrs. Anna H. (Isadore) Katzen, who, as above mentioned, served a two-year term (1931–1933) as president of the State Sisterhood Federation, presided at the Welch State Convention until the election of Mrs. Eph [Ephraim] Broh, of Huntington, to the presidency, in October, 1933.

In the jointly co-sponsored State Sisterhood Convention held at Beckley on October 11–12, 1953, the following Emanuel Temple Sisterhood members from Welch served as follows:

Co-Chairmen of the Convention Committee from Welch: Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen and Mrs. E. M. [Edward] Newman.
Corresponding Co-Chairman from Welch: Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen

Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick, president of the Welch Sisterhood in 1953 to 1954, and also, later, president of the Sisterhood from 1956 to 1957, was on the program. The main sermon of the convention was given by Rabbi Jakob J. Petuchowski, then part-time rabbi of the Welch Congregation Emanuel. Mrs. E. M. Newman, of Welch, served as State Stationery Chairman in 1951 to 1953.

Officers of the Emanuel Temple Sisterhood in 1953 to 1954, including the president, Mrs. Julian Budnick, were:

President: Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick (of Keystone)
1st Vice President: Mrs. Ellis Roston
2nd Vice President: Mrs. Maurice D. Herzbrun
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Morton [Morris, Mort; Hazel] Rosensweig
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen
Treasurer: Mrs. Milton (Sarah) Gottlieb (of War)

Elected or appointed from Welch, at the 1953 State Convention, to serve from 1953 to 1955, were the following:

Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick (of Keystone), 2nd Vice President of the State Federation
Mrs. Ellis Roston: Emergency Services State Chairman.

In 1951, for the purposes of the biennial regional conventions, the Welch Sisterhood was assigned to the Southern Region, or District, of the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, together with Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Logan, and Williamson.

The Religious School of Emanuel Congregation

Many years ago, the enrollment in the Religious School of Emanuel Congregation was 26 children. By 1957, all the members of this original group of 26 Jewish children had long since grown up, married, and moved away from the Welch and McDowell County area.

In 1939 to 1940, Mrs. Morton (Hazel) Rosensweig served as superintendent of the Religious School of Emanuel Congregation.

There were several years in the following period (from about 1950 on) when there was no religious school in the Welch Congregation Emanuel. Then, about 1953, the Religious School was started again, with one teacher and an enrollment of three children, all of them under six years of age. In 1956 to 1957 the enrollment was six children, three of them past six years of age, and three children under the age of six years. Three of these six children lived outside of Welch proper (1957). The student rabbi or part-time rabbi of the Welch congregation always taught at the school on alternate Sunday mornings, and supervised during the religious year. Past teachers in the Religious School included Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen and Maurice D. Herzbrun.

The McDowell County B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 1265

Past presidents of the Welch (the McDowell County) B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 1265, have included the following:

Maurice D. Herzbrun	Emanuel L. Katzen
Isadore Katzen	Milton Gottlieb (of War)

Milton Gottlieb served as president of the lodge in 1953 to 1954.

In previous years the Welch-McDowell County Lodge, No. 1265, took a comparatively active part in the work of the State Council of the B'nai B'rith, and sent delegates to the annual Spring and Fall Council meetings. For several years the Lodge made an annual contribution, in the 1940's and 1950's, to the annual Joint Defense Appeal of the B'nai B'rith and of the American Jewish Committee, and Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling and Nathan Platnick, of Bluefield, visited the Lodge, in its meeting rooms at Emanuel Temple, in the interests of the J. D. A., of which the latter was then State Chairman. In 1956, the McDowell County Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, No. 1265 (Welch), gave up its charter in D. G. L., No. 3.

The Graduate and Student Rabbis of Welch Congregation Emanuel

Until 1943, the Welch congregation used the services of the Bluefield rabbis, on a part-time or occasional basis, but thereafter determined to secure its own part-time student rabbi from the H. U. C., in Cincinnati. Those who served, thus, from 1943 through 1959, were:

1943–1944: Alton Winters
1944–1945: Leonard H. Devine
1945–1947: Steven S. Schwarzschild
1947–1948: Max (Mordecai) Podet
1948–1949: Rav A. Soloff
1949–1950: Jerome B. Cohen
1950–1955: Jakob J. Petuchowski
(who served both as a student rabbi and as a graduate rabbi)
1955–1957: Leonard S. Kravitz
1957–1958: Rabbi M. Arthur Oles
(a graduate rabbi serving as a fellow at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati)

1958: Gerald Schuster (officiant for the High Holy Days in September, 1958)

1958–1959: Rabbi Stanley F. Chyet (a fellow at the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, serving the Welch congregation as part-time graduate rabbi)

1959–1960: Rabbi Sheldon Gordon (a fellow at the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, serving as biweekly part-time graduate rabbi)

The following biographical data on most of the rabbis and student rabbis of the Welch Congregation Emanuel, as well as the following valuable data on the Welch congregation, were generously and painstakingly furnished to me by the below-mentioned rabbis and student rabbis themselves, in correspondence. The data are arranged in chronological order.

The reminiscences of the former student and graduate rabbis of Welch, presented below in letter form, add greatly to the knowledge of the Welch congregation and community, and present facts all but forgotten and which otherwise would have remained unknown.

1936–1943

Julius Kravetz. During the seven years of his rabbinate in Bluefield, from 1936 to 1943, Rabbi Julius Kravetz served Congregation Emanuel, of Welch, as part-time rabbi, until he left Bluefield and the State in May, 1943, to enter the United States Army as a chaplain in the middle of the Second World War. He also served the North Fork-Keystone-Kimball Jewish community, visiting Welch on alternate Sundays, and Keystone on alternate Sundays (in the afternoon and evening), and conducting services there.

In the period preceding 1937, also, the Bluefield rabbis would serve the Welch congregation in times of need.

1943–1944

Alton Winters. Rabbi Alton Winters (born at Baltimore, Md., on October 9, 1921) served as the student rabbi of Congregation Emanuel, of Welch, from September, 1943, to June,

1944. He was ordained by the H. U. C. in June, 1947. In 1949 he became rabbi of the Bergen County Reform Temple, in Hackensack, N. J.; in 1956–1958 he served as the associate rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel, in Bridgeport, Conn.; and in 1958 he was named rabbi of the congregation in Bridgeport. In September, 1959, Rabbi Alton Winters left Congregation B'nai Israel, of Bridgeport, Conn., to become rabbi of the North Country Reform Temple, in Glen Cove, N. Y.

Rabbi Alton Winters presented the following interesting and factful account of his one-year service as student rabbi in Welch, and of his life and thoughts as such, in a letter dated at Bridgeport, Conn., on February 15, 1957:

I graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1942 with an A.B. [degree], and from the Hebrew Union College as rabbi and with an M.H.L. [Master of Hebrew Literature] degree in 1947. After leaving Welch in June, 1944, I was sent as student rabbi on a weekly basis to Paducah, Ky. I came to Bridgeport in September, 1955, as associate rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel.

The president of the Congregation [Emanuel] in Welch in 1943–1944, if I remember correctly, was a man named Rosenzweig [Morton, Mort, or Morris Rosenzweig]. I can not remember any other officers, but I recall a Sherman family with a store on Main Street [the Sherman family, Louis and Ethel R. Sherman, was still living in Welch in 1957]; the Katzen family [Isadore and Anna H. Katzen], with a wholesale food and tobacco business; and, above all, a Mr. Polin [Samuel, or Sam, Polon], who was in coal-mining and some other things, and who was instrumental in supporting the Congregation and in putting the United Jewish Appeal drives in this district into high gear. I can recall some marvellous stories about Mr. Polin's [Polon's] career in Welch.[1]

I cannot remember a thing about the Sisterhood or the B'nai B'rith.

I believe that there was one religious school teacher aside from myself in Welch. I have a vague memory that it was Mrs. Rosenzweig [It actually was Mrs. Morton (Mort) or Hazel Rosenzweig]. . . . I remember being filled to the brim with Franzblau's [Abraham N. Franzblau, then Professor of Education at the H. U. C.] ideas on progressive education. I recall doing a number of things to bring the instruction "up-to-date" in Welch. One specific project was the building of a model Biblical village.

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[1] In 1957–1958, Samuel Polon was still living in Welch and still in business there, but the illness of his son compelled him, from about the year 1947–1948 on, to reside for part of each year in Arizona, with his son.

. . . . I came to Welch every other weekend throughout the academic year. Friday night I conducted services in the Temple at Welch. All day Saturday, I usually spent visiting people in town. Saturday night I was always invited to somebody's house for dinner. Sunday morning, we had religious school at Temple. Sunday afternoon I took the bus to Northfork, West Virginia. I gave religious instruction to a few children at the home of some people named Kaufman (I think).[1] Sunday night I preached and conducted services in the Northfork Congregation.[2] I usually had dinner with one of the members, and hopped the N & W [Norfolk & Western Railway train] to Cincinnati to get back to work [at the H. U. C.].

Such was the life of a bi-weekly [student] rabbi 13 or 14 years ago. Compared with what I do now, it seems absolutely leisurely.

1944–1945

Leonard H. Devine. Leonard H. Devine (born at Camden, N. J., on April 29, 1919) served as the student rabbi of Congregation Emanuel, in Welch, during the religious year extending from September, 1944, to June, 1945. He was ordained by, and received the M.H.L. degree from, the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, in 1948. In 1950 he became rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel, in Elmira, N. Y., and served in that position until 1957, when he was called to Chicago to become the rabbi of Congregation Beth Torah.

1945–1947

Steven S. Schwarzschild. Steven S. Schwarzschild served as student rabbi of the Welch Congregation Emanuel from 1945 to 1947, i. e., for a two-year period, according to the records of the H. U. C. - J. I. R., which were generously furnished to me by the College, and of which I have made full use in this history, although, according to his own recollections, his period of service in Welch covered merely the one year from 1944 to 1945, which, as above, was occupied by Leonard H. Devine. It is my belief that the H. U. C. records are correct, and that it is possible

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[1] This family might have been the Raymond Seligman family, in North Fork. The several Kaufman families, three or more in number, lived in Kimball, W. Va.

[2] The synagogue of the North Fork-Keystone contiguous community, B'nai Israel Congregation, was located in Keystone, not in North Fork.

that Rabbi Steven S. Schwarzschild actually served the Welch congregation from 1945 to 1947, for two years.

Steven S. Schwarzschild (born in Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, on February 5, 1924) was ordained by the H. U. C., and was graduated with the M.H.L. degree, in June, 1948. In September, 1950, he became rabbi of Temple Beth El, in Fargo, N. Dak., serving until September, 1957, when he left to become rabbi of Temple Beth El, in Lynn, Mass., where he was still serving in 1959–1960. He is the author of a book entitled *The Social Philosophy of Hermann Cohen* and of an article entitled *The Story of a Failure: The Marquis de Moves* (Hebrew Union College, 1955). Of outstanding interest and value was his two-year period of service, after his ordination, as rabbi of the Berlin Jewish Community and of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Russian-Occupied Zone of Germany, in the post-Second World War period, under the auspices of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (1948–1950).

In a letter written at Fargo, N. Dak., and dated February 22, 1957, Steven S. Schwarzschild presented the following extremely interesting, human, humorous, and philosophical picture of his service as a rabbinical student in the city of Welch and in Temple Emanuel, for the period 1944 to 1945,[1] but which, in all likelihood, was for the period 1945 to 1947, or at least from 1945 to 1946, according to all the official records:

> I was born on February 5, 1924, at Frankfort-on-theMain, Germany. I came to the United States in 1939. I went to school at City College, New York, Columbia University, and the University of Cincinnati, and graduated from the latter with a B.A. degree in philosophy in 1948. I went to school at the Hebrew Union College from 1941 to 1948 — I obtained the B.H.L., M.H.L., and rabbinical degrees there — also majored in philosophy . . . — and obtained the D.H.L. degree in philosophy in 1955. I was rabbi of the Berlin Jewish Community and the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Russian-Occupied Zone of Germany under the auspices of the World Union for Progressive Judaism from 1948 to 1950. I have been rabbi of Temple Beth El, of Fargo, North Dakota, since 1950.[2]

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[1] This is a moot point; *see* above.

[2] In September, 1957, as stated above, Rabbi Steven S. Schwarzschild moved to Lynn, Mass., where he became the rabbi of another Temple Beth El.

As regards . . . my student rabbinate in Welch, West Virginia, apart from the fact that I remember that I was there, I literally do not remember a thing about it — so much so that I now appreciate the situation of people who are called to testify before congressional committees about events in their lives long ago who can barely remember that they took place. Furthermore, looking through my files, the only things which I found were (1) a Hebrew Union College letter telling me that I was assigned to officiate at Congregation Emanuel at Welch, West Va., but there is no date on the letter, and that I was to contact Mr. Morton Rosenzweig; and (2) a letter dated September 28, 1945, [written] by Mr. Sam Polon, thanking me for my services during the year, and telling me that, due to the fact that Rabbi [Julius] Kravetz, who had served that congregation and Northfork for four or five [six] years, was expected to return from the armed services in the near future, they could not at that time get the community of Northfork [the combined North Fork-Keystone Jewish community, or membership] to cooperate with them again, that they have only 15 [Jewish] families in Welch, and that therefore they had decided not to have regular rabbinical ministrations during the coming year.[1]

With my customary brilliance I therefore deduce that, contrary to what you indicate in your letter, I did not serve in Welch from 1945–1946 (or from 1945 to 1947, as the H. U. C. and the Welch Congregation Emanuel records would indicate), but that it must have been from 1944 to 1945. I also vaguely remember this gentleman, [Sam] Polon, who had a house on one of the typical West Virginia mining hills and was apparently relatively well-to-do. I seem to recall that he told me that he had originally come from Eastern Europe, [had] left there to escape [military service in] the Russian army, landed in Baltimore, had made two fortunes in the [coal?] mining industry, both of which he lost in 1929, etc. I do not remember where I went from Welch. I think it may have been Zanesville, Ohio. This is literally all I can tell you in reply to your various questions about Welch. I do not remember a single other solitary thing.

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[1] Rabbi Julius Kravetz, however, whose return to Bluefield was expected even up to the end of the summer of 1947, never did return to his former Congregation Ahavath Sholom in Bluefield, W. Va., but settled in Tallahassee, Fla., as a result of the serious illness of his parents, and resumed his rabbinical career in Florida. It is possible that the letter written by Samuel Polon was inadvertently misdated, and that the date should be September 28, 1946, for even up to the fall of 1947, as mentioned above, Rabbi Julius Kravetz's return to Bluefield was confidently expected by both the Bluefield and the Welch congregations.

1947–1948

If Steven S. Schwarzschild's recollections are correct, and he actually did serve as the student rabbi of Welch Congregation Emanuel only for the one-year period from 1944 to 1945, and not for the two-year period from 1945 to 1947, then the record of service (beyond their mere names) of the student rabbis who served the Welch community from 1945 to 1947 has been lost. At any rate, according to the official records, Mordecai (Max) Podet served from 1947 to 1948.

Mordecai (Max) Podet. Rabbi Mordecai (Max) Podet served as the student rabbi of Emanuel Congregation, in Welch, for the religious year 1947 to 1948. Born at New York City, he received the B.A. degree from Western Reserve University, in Cleveland. After graduate work in philosophy at the University of Chicago, and in Jewish studies at seminaries in Cleveland and Chicago, he was awarded the M.H.L. degree and ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in 1951. He had served as editor of the *Hebrew Union College Quarterly*, and as president of the N. F. T. Y. during his college years in Cincinnati, and before his ordination he had served as the Hillel Director at Ohio University, in Athens, Ohio. He served as a chaplain in the United States Naval Reserve, and was called to active duty in October, 1952. First appointed to the United States Naval Training Center, at Great Lakes, Illinois, he later became the Navy's only Jewish chaplain in the Mediterranean Area, serving the Sixth Fleet and NATO activities. Since December, 1954, he has served as the rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel, in Salt Lake City, Utah.[1]

Rabbi Mordecai Podet wrote as follows, laconically and humorously, with reference to his experience of one year as the student rabbi of the Welch Congregation Emanuel: "Of my Welch experience — I trust you with regard to the dates; I do not recall them — only these unreliable shreds of memory remain with me: The then president of the congregation was a dignified, warmly hospitable gentleman [Samuel Polon?], who

[1] In September, 1961, Rabbi Mordecai Podet left Salt Lake City, Utah, for Coral Gables, Fla., where he began his service as the rabbi of Temple Judea.

assured me that I would go far in the rabbinate. I heard later that this was his inevitable comment to student rabbis. Since I write from Utah, his standing as a prophet is not diminished by my experience."

1948–1949

Rav A. Soloff. Rav A. Soloff (born at Brooklyn, N. Y., on January 4, 1927, the son of the noted Reform rabbi and Jewish educator and author Mordecai I. Soloff, H. U. C., 1940) served as the student rabbi of Emanuel Congregation, in Welch, from 1948 to 1949. Despite the fact that Rabbi Soloff himself states that he merely conducted High Holy Day services in Welch in 1948, the official record of the Hebrew Union College indicates that he served as the student rabbi in Welch for the entire religious year extending from September, 1948, to June, 1949. Also, I myself, serving then as rabbi in nearby Bluefield, recall that sometime in the early part of the year 1949, perhaps in April, 1949 (and on at least one other occasion either before or after that), at a dinner meeting or social held by the Bluefield-Princeton Sisterhood in the then new Bluefield Temple Ahavath Sholom, a deputation or delegation of Welch Jewish families, including Morton and Hazel Rosenzweig, Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Katzen, Aaron Catzen and his daughter Ethel of North Fork, and others of the Welch congregation, came to Bluefield for the affair, and were accompanied by young student rabbi Rav A. Soloff.

He was ordained by the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, in 1951, and later, in June, 1954, after serving for two years as a United States Army chaplain, he became assistant rabbi of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, in Newark, N. J., which position he held until September, 1959, when he was elected rabbi of the East End Temple, in New York City.

With [his] characteristic modesty, and with the strictures mentioned above, I present a portion of his letter of February 19, 1957, written at Newark, N. J.:

Honored as I am by your request concerning the history of West Virginia Jewry and my part in it, I must confess that I was not a

student rabbi of the Welch Temple Emanuel. I merely conducted High Holy Day services there on Rosh Hashono and Yom Kippur of 1948 — at least I think it was 1948. This very minor participation in the life of the Jews of West Virginia hardly entitles me to a place in your forthcoming volume.

[1948–1949?] 1947–1948

Jerome W. Grollman. According to information and records sent to me by Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman, he served as the part-time student rabbi of Congregation Emanuel, in Welch, from October, 1947, to June, 1948, coming from his regular biweekly position in Williamson by the Norfolk & Western Railroad. There is no record at the H. U. C., however, of this service at Welch by Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman, and if the date of 1947 to 1948 might possibly be an error in recollection for 1948 to 1949, it would indicate that Rabbi Rav A. Soloff's recollection of having served in Welch only for the High Holy Day period of 1948 is correct, and that he did not serve as the student rabbi during the entire religious year 1948–1949, and that Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman did serve as such for the Welch congregation during the year 1948 to 1949. According to the records of the H. U. C., and the statement of Rabbi Mordecai Podet, the latter had served as student rabbi in Welch for the year 1947 to 1948, the year covered by Rabbi Grollman's statement.

However, at this late date, it will probably prove impossible to resolve this chronological difficulty, as witness the official statement on the subject by Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman, in a letter written to me in 1956:

> I served also as part-time student rabbi of Congregation Emanuel, in Welch, from October, 1947, to June, 1948, arriving in Welch on Sunday afternoons, late, for evening religious services every other Sunday, after leaving Williamson, where I spent the period from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon every other week as student rabbi of the Williamson congregation and as teacher in the Williamson Religious School. I served as the student rabbi of the B'nai Israel Congregation, in Williamson, from 1946 to 1948.

1949–1950

Jerome B. Cohen. Rabbi Jerome B. Cohen served as the student rabbi of Welch Congregation Emanuel during the religious year 1949 to 1950. A more detailed biography of the late Rabbi Jerome B. Cohen will be found in the section on Parkersburg. In September, 1957, he left his congregation, Temple Beth El of Northern Valley, in Closter, N. J., to assume the pulpit of Temple Emanuel, in Gastonia, N. C., and during that same month, in late September, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, he was tragically killed in an automobile accident near Gastonia. At the time of his death he was only 34 years old, having been born in Mt. Carmel, Pa., on January 13, 1923.

1950–1955

Jakob J. Petuchowski. Rabbi Jakob Josef Petuchowski (born in Berlin, Germany, on July 30, 1925) served Congregation Emanuel, in Welch, first as part-time student rabbi (1950–1952) and then as part-time graduate rabbi, after his ordination by the H. U. C. - J. I. R. in Cincinnati, in 1952 (1952–1955). According to Rabbi Petuchowski's letter, cited below, he had served the Welch congregation also from 1949 to 1950, thus for six years, not five; the year from 1949 to 1950 would have been the year reserved in the records for the student rabbinical service of Jerome B. Cohen, as listed above. According to an incomplete record, Jerome B. Cohen actually served as the student rabbi of the Welch congregation only in September, 1949, as the officiant for the High Holy Days of 1949.

After his ordination in June, 1952, Rabbi Jakob J. Petuchowski became a fellow of the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, in the department of rabbinics, serving for three years in this capacity; and on July 1, 1956, after a year in the active congregational rabbinate, he was appointed the Assistant Professor of Rabbinics at the H. U. C.; in 1959, he was appointed Associate Professor of Rabbinic Literature at the College.

As will be seen from the letter cited below, Rabbi Petuchowski

supplied me with the list of members of the Welch congregation, including those living in the neighboring towns and villages, mentioned above. His letter, written at Cincinnati on February 14, 1957, is so replete with valuable data on the Welch congregation and community during his five- (or six) -year "tenure" of rabbinical office there that it is here cited in full:

I was born in Berlin, Germany, on July 30, 1925. Educated at the Adath Israel Real-Gymnasium, Berlin, the Glasgow Rabbinical College, Scotland, and the University of London, England (B.A. in Psychology, 1947), I came to the United States in 1948, obtained my ordination and M.H.L. [degree] at the Hebrew Union College in 1952; was a teaching fellow at the Hebrew Union College from 1952 to 1955, in which latter year I received my Ph.D. [degree]. From July, 1955, to June, 1956, I was rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation, Washington, Pa.; and, as of July 1, 1956, I have been Assistant Professor of Rabbinics at the Hebrew Union College.

My associations with Welch, West Virginia, date back to 1949, and reach to 1955 — which makes my "tenure" there six years, instead of the five with which you credit me. I believe that this must be some kind of record for a "biweekly" man. But so is the fact that that small congregation [Congregation Emanuel, of Welch] undertook the publication of my Ph.D. thesis [at the H. U. C.] (*The Theology of Haham David Nieto*, with the subtitle, "An Eighteenth Century Defense of the Jewish Tradition," 1954), the funds for [the] same being furnished by Mr. Samuel Polon. The book was published by the Bloch Publishing Company, of New York, in lithograph, in lithoprinted style, and it was dedicated "To Samuel Polon, Lover of Torah, who made the publication of this volume possible."

The president of the Welch congregation since "time immemorial" has been Mort [Morton] Rosenzweig [Rosensweig]. Samuel Polon was, and is, treasurer, and Samuel Solins secretary. Mrs. Isadore [Anna Herzbrun] Katzen has some decades of Sisterhood work to her credit, both as recording secretary and, lately, I believe, as president. Other Sisterhood presidents whom I recall are Mrs. Julian [Gertrude] Budnick, of Keystone, W. Va., and Mrs. Irving Rosen, of War, W. Va.

I am enclosing herewith the membership list of the Welch congregation as of the beginning of June, 1955. This is my only copy, so please return it to me. I would also suggest that you contact Mr. Samuel Solins, of Welch, W. Va., for some more up-to-date information on this, as well as Rabbi Leonard Kravitz, of the H. U. C., Cincinnati, the present incumbent [biweekly student rabbi].

I used to handle the minute Sunday School by myself, though, for a

couple of months, I had the assistance of Mr. Maurice D. Herzbrun, and a Miss Sher helped out for some weeks.[1]

During my second year in Welch I initiated the weekly Jewish radio program, "Hear O Israel!" (tape-recording programs for the weekends I was not there). I gave many lectures to Rotary and Kiwanis (also in Northfork), addressed the McDowell County Women's Club, and participated in interfaith activities. In 1950 I succeeded in bringing Welch [Congregation Emanuel] into the family of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

In 1961, Rabbi Jakob J. Petuchowski published, in New York, his work, *Ever Since Sinai*, which presents a modern view of the Torah. Also, since assuming the above-mentioned professorship at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, he has contributed a number of articles in his field to the *Hebrew Union College Annual*, to the quarterly *Judaism*, and to other scientific and religious periodicals.

1955–1957

Leonard S. Kravitz. Rabbi Leonard S. Kravitz (born in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 4, 1928; he is not related to Rabbi Julius Kravetz, formerly of Bluefield) served as the graduate part-time rabbi of the Welch Congregation Emanuel from 1955 to 1957, at which time he was working as a Fellow in Philosophy at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, after his ordination there on June 4, 1954. He was the Leo W. Simon Memorial Fellow. In 1957 he entered the chaplaincy in the United States Army. In early 1959, Leonard S. Kravitz was serving as a United States Army chaplain at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. In July, 1959, he completed his tour of chaplaincy service in the United States Army, and in the following month he became rabbi of Temple Beth El, in Closter, N. J.

In June, 1950, Leonard S. Kravitz had graduated from John Carroll University, a Jesuit school (in Cleveland, Ohio). As the holder of the above-mentioned Leo W. Simon Fellowship at the H. U. C., he worked on his doctoral dissertation, on the subject of Moses Nachmanides as the mediator in the Maimunist — anti-Maimunist controversy.

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[1] Maurice D. Herzbrun is a Welch attorney.

Rabbi Kravitz reported that in his two years of service with the Welch congregation, Morton Rosenzweig served as the president, and Samuel Solins as the treasurer. In 1956–1957, Mrs. Julian Budnick, of Keystone, was the president of the Welch Temple Emanuel Sisterhood.

1957–1958

M. Arthur Oles. Rabbi M. Arthur Oles, of Cincinnati, a fellow at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., served as the graduate, biweekly, part-time rabbi of the Welch Congregation Emanuel in 1957 to 1958. He was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R. in June, 1955. In 1959–1960 he was rabbi of Temple Beth Am, in Seattle, Wash.

1958–1959

Stanley F. Chyet. Rabbi Stanley F. Chyet, of Dorchester, Mass., the Harrison Jules Louis Frank and the Leon Harrison Frank Research Fellow in American Jewish History at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, served as the graduate, biweekly, part-time rabbi of the Welch Congregation Emanuel from September, 1958, to June, 1959. Morton Rosenzweig was still president of the Welch congregation in that year. Stanley F. Chyet was born in Boston, Mass., in 1931, and graduated from Brandeis University, in Waltham, Mass., in 1952, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern Civilization. In 1954, he received the B.H.L. degree from the H. U. C. - J. I. R. in New York, and in June, 1957, the M.H.L. and ordination from the H. U. C. - J. I. R. in Cincinnati. In 1959–1960 he continued his studies at the Cincinnati College, leading to the Ph.D. degree, and serving as a graduate research fellow in American Jewish history on the staff of the American Jewish Archives, being also a contributor to the *American Jewish Archives* periodical. On May 28, 1960, he was awarded the Ph.D. degree by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati; after which he was appointed assistant to Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, Director of the American Jewish Archives, in Cincinnati.

In September, 1960, Stanley F. Chyet was appointed instructor in American Jewish history at the H. U. C. - J. I. R.

1959–1960

Rabbi Sheldon Gordon. Rabbi Sheldon Gordon, of Cleveland (ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in June, 1959), a Graduate Fellow at the College in Cincinnati, served as the biweekly graduate rabbi of the Welch Congregation Emanuel in 1959 to 1960.

Brief Notes on Welch Jews of Past and Present

The Jews of Welch, always only a handful in number, have taken an active part in the civic and communal life of the city and of McDowell County. In 1959, Samuel Solins, eminent as a political figure in the county, was serving as president of the Board of the McDowell County Public Library. Maurice D. Herzbrun was a member of the same Public Library Board in 1959. Mrs. Nora B. Franks, when a resident of Welch, played a leading role in the founding of the McDowell County Public Library. Maurice D. Herzbrun is said to have been the first Jew born in Welch. He served a term as president of the Welch Kiwanis Club. A brother of Samuel Solins (R. A. Solins, of Wheeling?) served as a member of the West Virginia State Legislature from 1911 to 1913. (This name is perhaps given incorrectly as R. A. Salmon in the *AJYB* for 1911–1912, and should be Solins.) In 1959, Emanuel L. Katzen served as vice president of the Welch Kiwanis Club. Jews of Welch are active also as members of the Welch Lions and Rotary Clubs.

Samuel I. Abrams. Before moving to Beckley permanently in 1932, Samuel I. Abrams lived in Welch for a short time, in the 1920's, operating a furniture and clothing store there.

Isaac and Herman Diamond. The brothers Isaac and Herman Diamond, the sons of Louis Diamond, of Bluefield, while living in Bluefield, have for many years operated a finance and small loans office in Welch.

Mrs. Herschel Fleck. Mrs. Herschel Fleck (Mrs. Leah Rosen Fleck) is a younger sister of Mrs. Faye R. (Bernard E.) Silverman, of Beckley. Herschel Fleck has been an active

officer and member of the Welch congregation for a number of years.

NORA B. FRANKS. Mrs. Nora B. Franks, now (1959–1960) a resident of Parkersburg, and before that of Beckley, lived in Welch from 1952 to July, 1954, employed as the manager of the Social Security Office there. While a resident of Welch she was active in the Welch Sisterhood, and played an important role in the creation of the McDowell County Library in Welch.

SIDNEY FRIEDMAN. Sidney Friedman, who had lived in Beckley for several years after 1929 or 1930, the year in which he came to West Virginia from Roanoke, Va., moved to Welch in the 1930's. In Welch he opened up a jewelry store, which he still operated in 1957–1958.

MRS. DON [DONALD] HASTINGS. In June, 1955, Mrs. Don [Donald] Hastings, living in Mullens, W. Va., was a member of the Welch Congregation Emanuel.

JOSEPH B. HELLER. The late Joseph B. Heller, who was in the furniture business in Beckley for many years, lived in Welch for some time before 1931. In that year he moved to Beckley, where he became associated with the Lewis Furniture Company, of Huntington.

CHARLES HELLER, the son of Joseph B. Heller, was born at Welch in October, 1927, and came to Beckley with his parents in 1931. In 1951, Charles Heller moved to New York, where he became a sales manager for R. H. Macy & Co.

JOSEPH and LENA HERZBRUN. Joseph and Lena Herzbrun were the parents of Mrs. Anna Herzbrun (Isadore) Katzen and of Maurice D. Herzbrun. In 1898, they came from New York City to Welch to live, being only the second Jewish family to settle in the city. Before his immigration into the United States, Joseph Herzbrun, a native of Austria, served as a soldier in the Austro-Hungarian Army. When he came to the United States and settled in Welch, he was a merchant tailor, the first such to come to the city to reside. In the course of the many years during which he lived in Welch, Joseph Herzbrun entered also the real estate field,

and served on the City Council, was elected a director of the First National Bank, and acquired and managed considerable real estate holdings. He and his son-in-law Isadore Katzen, as well as his brother-in-law, Herman Josephy, were founders and charter members of the Welch Congregation Emanuel. Joseph Herzbrun also served as the first vice president whom the Welch congregation had.

Later on, Anna Herzbrun, the only daughter of Joseph and Lena Herzbrun, married Isadore Katzen, a noted Welch businessman.

Besides Maurice D. Herzbrun, a Welch attorney, Joseph and Lena Herzbrun had another son, Edward Herzbrun.

MAURICE D. HERZBRUN. Maurice D. Herzbrun, the son of Joseph and Lena Herzbrun, reputed to have been the first Jewish child to be born in Welch, and a brother of Mrs. Anna Herzbrun (Isadore) Katzen, is the only lawyer of the Jewish faith (besides Samuel Solins) practising in Welch or in the whole of McDowell County. In 1959, he was a member of the Welch (McDowell County) Public Library Board. He served a term as president of the Welch Kiwanis Club. He taught in the Welch Emanuel Religious School, together with his sister.

BEN HURVITZ. Ben Hurvitz, of Fayette County, who owned a general store in Welch, as well as other such stores in other cities of the area, together with his noted partner, Joseph M. Lopinsky, had by 1918 sold out his Welch store and moved to Charleston, where he died in April, 1942.

HERMAN JOSEPHY. Herman Josephy's wife was the sister of Mrs. Joseph (Lena) Herzbrun, so that Herman Josephy and Joseph Herzbrun, both of them active in the founding of the Welch Congregation Emanuel, were brothers-in-law. Herman Josephy and his wife settled in Welch in 1900. He was a charter member of the congregation. Mrs. Herman Josephy served for ten years as the first president of the Welch Emanuel Sisterhood after it was organized.

MRS. H. KAHN. In 1950, Mrs. H. Kahn, of Welch, was a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of B'nai Jacob Congregation, in Charleston.

Emanuel L. Katzen. Emanuel L. Katzen, the son of Isadore and Anna Herzbrun Katzen, served in 1958 as the commander of the Welch Post of the American Legion, No. 8.

Eugene H. Lopinsky. Eugene H. Lopinsky, a brother of Joseph M. Lopinsky, lived and worked in Welch for a time, after leaving Scarbro. From Welch he removed permanently to Charleston, where he died in 1948.

Joseph M. Lopinsky. Joseph M. Lopinsky, after leaving Thurmond, settled in Welch, where he operated a general store until his death at Welch in 1915 or 1916.

Morris Lopinsky. Morris Lopinsky, a cousin of Eugene H. and Joseph M. Lopinsky, lived in Welch from 1920 to 1930, operating a department (general) store there. He had come to Welch from Scarbro in 1920, and died at Welch in 1930. The three Lopinskys — two brothers and their cousin — were all first cousins of Samuel I. Abrams, of Welch and Beckley.

Samuel Polon. Samuel (familiarly called Sam) Polon has been described in letters written by several of the student and graduate part-time rabbis of Welch of past years. For many years he was one of the staunchest supporters of the Welch congregation and of the annual U. J. A. drives in the city. He had served a number of terms as president of Emanuel Congregation. Samuel Polon was the brother of the former Sadie Polon (the original family name had been Polanski, but it was shortened to Polon by Samuel Polon), who married Joseph B. Heller and later moved to Beckley from Welch in 1931.

Biographical Presentation on Samuel Polon by Mrs. Samuel Solins and Mrs. Paul W. Jones

Samuel Polon. Samuel Polon (originally, Polanski), popularly known as "Sam" Polon in the Welch area, the brother of Mrs. Sadie P. (Joseph B.) Heller, of Beckley, was noted as a real estate developer in the Welch neighborhood. A native of Russia, he emigrated to the United States in 1906, later becoming a naturalized citizen. With the aid of J. Frank Johnson, of Welch,

whose family is reputed to have been the third family to settle in Welch, Samuel Polon, shortly after his arrival in Welch as a "settler," about the year 1908, entered the real estate business as a buyer and seller of property.

Interested in both the Jewish congregation of Welch and in the civic life of the city, Samuel Polon served a term as the president of the Welch Chamber of Commerce, and headed several annual campaigns for funds of the American Red Cross and of the Salvation Army. Mrs. Samuel Solins' and Mrs. Paul W. Jones's oft-referred-to above volume, *McDowell County History*, from which this presentation on the biography of Samuel Polon as well as many data on the lives and biographies of the Welch Jewish families and on the history of Welch have been gleaned, is authority for the statement (page 112) that "during the crash [the stock market crash in New York of the year 1929–1930 and the subsequent 'Great Depression'] [Samuel] Polon lost approximately $600,000." However, he subsequently appears to have recouped a major part of his affluence, for in the 1940's and 1950's he was reported to be again, or still, well-off, and to be a big contributor to the maintenance of the Welch congregation and of other institutions and organizations of the Welch community.

It is of interest that in Russia Samuel Polon was "intended" for the rabbinate (the Orthodox rabbinate, of course, in Russia), but after earning and saving, in his native Russia, a small sum of money wherewith he came to the United States in 1906, he made up his mind to become a worker and then a businessman, in which he was eminently successful in a then fast growing and developing area.

After Congregation Emanuel was organized, Samuel Polon was its first president, and served again later as its president as well as in other offices of the congregation.

Irving Rosen. Irving Rosen, the only brother of Mrs. Faye R. (Bernard E.) Silverman, of Beckley, and the only son of the late Samuel and Bella Rosen, came to Welch from Chicago, in 1928. After residing and being in business in Welch for some years, he and his wife, the former Annabelle Salle,

removed to nearby War, W. Va., where he and his father operated a men's furnishings and clothing store for a number of years. In 1958, Irving and Annabelle Salle Rosen settled in Miami, Fla.

SAMUEL and BELLA ROSEN. Samuel and Bella Rosen, the parents of Irving Rosen and of Faye R. (Bernard E.) Silverman, of Beckley, settled in Welch in 1931, coming from Chicago. Samuel Rosen (born at Slavuta, Russia, in 1882) came to the United States in 1921, and settled in Chicago, residing there for ten years. He died at Welch on October 1, 1941. For several years he and his only son, Irving Rosen, operated a men's clothing store in nearby War, but he continued to reside in Welch. Mrs. Bella Rosen, his wife (born in Russia in 1886), was still living in Welch in 1959, but for health reasons spent part of each year in Florida.

The four children of Samuel and Bella Rosen were:

Mrs. Faye R. (the late Dr. Bernard E.) Silverman (of Beckley)
Mrs. Ethel Rosen (Louis) Sherman (of Welch)
Irving Rosen (of Welch and War)
Mrs. Leah (Lee) Rosen (Herschel) Fleck (of Welch)

HERMAN SAMANS. Herman Samans lived in Welch, and was in business there, until June, 1944. He then moved to Beckley. While a resident of Welch, he operated a music and general merchandise and notions store in Welch.

MRS. LOUIS SHERMAN. Mrs. Louis (Ethel Rosen) Sherman is a younger sister of Mrs. Bernard E. (Faye R.) Silverman, of Beckley.

DR. BERNARD E. SILVERMAN. The late Dr. Bernard E. Silverman, Beckley chiropodist, and the only chiropodist in Raleigh, Fayette, McDowell, and other contiguous counties, made monthly professional visits to Welch for a number of years up to 1952. He had settled in Beckley in 1939, coming from Chicago. He died at Beckley in early July, 1959.

SAMUEL SOLINS. Samuel Solins served for many terms as treasurer of the Welch Congregation Emanuel. In 1956–1957, in addition to his long-term membership in the Welch con-

gregation, he was also a member of Ohev Sholom Congregation (Reform), in Huntington.

Samuel Solins was president of the Board of the McDowell County Public Library in 1959. He is a personal friend of former President Harry S. Truman, and is a leading political figure in McDowell County. A brother of Samuel Solins served in the West Virginia Legislature some years ago (1911–1913?), and was responsible for legislation which requires premarital medical examination. (This brother was, perhaps, R. A. Solins, of Wheeling, whose name is apparently misspelled in an early volume of the *AJYB*. It is quite possible that the R. A. Salomons, or Salmons, who is mentioned in the *AJYB* for 1911–1912 [page 287] as having served as a State Senator from 1911 to 1913, represents a misprint for R. A. Solins, and was actually Samuel Solins' brother.)

Presentation (Biographical Sketch) on Samuel Solins by His Wife, Mrs. Jimmy Solins, and by Mrs. Paul W. Jones[1]

Samuel Solins. Samuel ("Sam") Solins was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1890. His family settled first in McDowell County, at Kimball, where he was brought up. Later the Solins family moved to Welch. While his family was still living in Kimball, Samuel Solins entered West Virginia University, in Morgantown, and in 1911 he was graduated from that university's College of Law. He then settled in Welch, where he has since practised as an attorney, serving as the first divorce commissioner of McDowell County, and also as a United States Commissioner. He also served as the assistant prosecuting attorney of McDowell County. In later years, Samuel Solins became also in part a businessman.

Samuel Solins served as an officer in the United States Army in the First World War, and practically ever since the end of that

[1] Excerpted from their volume, *McDowell County History*.

War he has been active in the American Legion in McDowell County, serving as one of the organizers of the American Legion at St. Louis in 1919. In Welch, he was a charter member of the American Legion Post, No. 8, and for 35 years he has served as the chairman of its speakers' bureau, in which capacity, for the annual Armistice Day celebration in Welch (November 11th), he was able to bring noted persons to Welch to deliver addresses. In 1941, and again in 1957, former President Harry S. Truman, a personal friend of Samuel Solins, served as the Armistice Day speaker in Welch, on the first occasion as a Senator from Missouri, and on the latter occasion as the ex-President of the United States.

Samuel Solins served as the president of the Rotary Club in Welch, and in 1959 he was serving as the president of the McDowell County Library.

Samuel Solins' wife, Mrs. Jimmy Solins, was co-author, with Mrs. Paul W. Jones, of the valuable and interesting volume, *McDowell County History*, cited several times above, from which many of the data included in this volume dealing with Welch and with others of the smaller towns and localities of McDowell County have been excerpted, through the kindness and aid of Rabbi Stanley F. Chyet, of the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, one of the former part-time graduate rabbis of the Welch Congregation Emanuel.

George D. Taxey. George D. Taxey (a first cousin of Rabbi Joseph M. [J. Marshall] Taxay), before his death in an automobile accident near Welch in 1949, had opened up the King Super Cut Rate (drug store) in Mullens, in addition to the King Cut Rate store which he had owned in Welch for several years before that. In January, 1950, his widow, Mrs. Lillian D. Taxey, moved from Welch to Mullens to manage the Mullens store. In July, 1954, however, Mrs. Taxey closed out the Mullens store, and moved back to Welch; in 1959–1960, she still operated the Welch store.

A few bits of data on the life and career of the young merchant George D. Taxey, culled from a letter written to me by Mrs.

Lillian M. Doischen Taxey, at Welch, on March 7, 1957, may prove of general interest to the historian and reader, as an interesting epitome of a pharmacist-merchant's life cut short so poignantly by tragedy many years before its time:

. . . . George [Taxey] and I are not natives of Welch. . . . George was from Pittsburgh, and I was a native of Long Island, N. Y. George Daniel Taxey — the son of David and Berta Taxey — was born in Russia. He came to Pittsburgh a week after his Bar Mitzvah, with his father. Several weeks later Mrs. Taxey came to America, bringing with her George's two sisters and [his cousin] Joe Marshall Taxay [Joseph M. Taxay] and his brother Sidney. George attended the elementary schools in Pittsburgh, and graduated from Fifth Avenue High School and the Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. He later won a scholarship to the [Hebrew] Union College in Cincinnati. Just how long he went to the Hebrew Union College I do not know, but he had told me that he had served as a student rabbi before he decided to go back to the practice of pharmacy.

His first store was at 1801 Wylie Avenue, in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. He later purchased the Bloomfield Drug Company, located at 4727 Liberty Avenue, and the Parkway Pharmacy in Squirrel Hill [Pittsburgh]. In January of 1945 he sold out the latter two stores and went to Miami, Florida, where he bought an interest in two drug stores in Miami Beach. He later sold out his interest in those stores and came to Welch in November of that same year [1945], and purchased the King Drug Company. Sometime after that he bought out the Johnston's Cut Rate and Patent Medicine store which was opposite the King Drug Company, and also the Mullens Drug Company in Mullens, later changing the name to King's Super Cut Rate.

On July 14, 1949, George had an automobile accident on the Brushy Fork Mountain in Bland, W. Va. [Va.?] He passed away three days later (on July 17, 1949). He was buried on July 20, 1949, in my family plot in the Montefiore Cemetery (Temple Israel Section) in Springfield, Long Island, N. Y.

My maiden name was Lillian Mildred Doischen. My parents were Theodore and Celia Doischen. I was born in New York State, and was raised in the Rockaway section of Long Island, N. Y.

Before my marriage to George, I was active in most all of the philanthropic, religious, civic, and social groups in the Rockaway Peninsula. . . . After George passed away I went to live in Mullens, where I managed the King Super Cut Rate; that was in January, 1950. I closed out that store in July, 1954, to go back to Welch and personally run the King Drug Company in Welch, of which

I am the president and controlling stockholder. . . . We joined the Welch congregation in 1946.

Aaron Totz. In the early 1930's, Aaron Totz moved to Welch from Mount Hope, W. Va., where he had conducted a general store from 1918 on. In the 1940's, after a number of years in the mercantile business in Welch, he left the city and settled in Baltimore.

Jacob Wilson. Jacob Wilson, formerly of Bluefield, and for some years in the jewelry business there (as owner and manager of the Bluefield Jewelry Company), was reported to be living and in business in Welch in 1957.

WELLSBURG

Wellsburg is an industrial city located in Brooke County, in northern West Virginia, in the Northern Panhandle, on the Ohio River, 15 miles north northeast of Wheeling. It is the county seat of Brooke County. It was platted as a town in 1790, and was chartered in 1797. Wellsburg is known especially as a city which manufactures glassware and paper and paper bags. It also processes flour and cement, and has some coal mines in its vicinity.

In 1935, its general population was 6,398, and in 1940 it had a general population of 6,255. Continuing to suffer a slight decline in its population in the ten-year period from 1940 to 1950, like so many others of the cities and towns of West Virginia, Wellsburg had a general population of 5,787 in 1950, according to the United States Census of that year.

In 1927, twelve Jews were reported, in the *AJYB*, to be living in Wellsburg, and in 1937 the total of the Jewish population of the city was given as 35. In 1957, according to a letter written to me from Wellsburg by Sanford Watzman, under date of January 14, 1957, there were only four Jewish families still resident in Wellsburg, and four Jewish families had left the city for other parts of the country in the period between 1948 and 1955. Sanford Watzman, a brother of Milton Irvin Watzman (who had formerly lived in Beckley), settled in Wellsburg in 1946, coming from Wheeling.

The following excerpts from Sanford Watzman's two letters, written at Wellsburg on January 14 and 22, 1957, provide some data on the past and present Jewish residents of Wellsburg, as well as on their lives and activities in the city:

. . . . I am a comparatively new citizen of this community, having come to Wellsburg from the United States Army in 1946.

Present Jewish families now living in Wellsburg

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Watzman (myself), with our three children. I am a retail merchant. I came to Wellsburg from Wheeling in 1946. Born on December 8, 1920, in Power, W. Va., I attended the Ohio

County schools and West Virginia University through 1941. I went to Beckley in 1942 to help my brother [Milton I. Watzman] with his business. The business was dissolved in 1942 because of the [Second World] War. I [Sanford Watzman] enlisted in the United States Army Signal Corps in 1942, and after going through three campaigns and serving for 27 months overseas, I was discharged honorably in January, 1946. In August, 1946, settling in Wellsburg, I went into business there with my brother, Milton I. Watzman, under the firm name of "Watzman's — Wellsburg's Store for Men and Boys," at 707–709 Charles St., in Wellsburg. I was married in January, 1949, and now am the father of two boys and a girl. I am living in Wellsburg with my family.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Krasner, of the Squirt Bottling Co. (bottling soft drinks). He is here from Beaver Falls, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Krasner, of the Squirt Bottling Co. They have three children. Vernon Krasner is a son of Morris Krasner. His wife is from Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Max Watzman, retail ladies' wear. She came here in 1943 from Wheeling. She is the mother of Sanford Watzman.

Jewish Families Which Left Wellsburg

Mr. and Mrs. Milton I. Watzman. They moved to Steubenville, Ohio, in 1954. He is a retail merchant.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Supovitz. They left in 1948 to go to Los Angeles, California. At that time they sold out their retail dry goods and ladies' wear business in Wellsburg.

Mr. Zeit (his first name is not known now). He left Wellsburg for Steubenville, Ohio, and Miami, Fla., where he passed away in 1955.

There is not at present, and as far as I know there never has been, any organized Jewish life in Wellsburg. The Jewish families here generally attend services in Steubenville, Ohio (7 miles from here). I am the only exception in that my family is a member of the Eoff Street Temple [now the Woodsdale Temple, or Congregation Leshem Shomayim] in Wheeling, W. Va. My mother, Mrs. Max Watzman, is a member of the [Conservative] Synagogue of Israel in Wheeling, W. Va.

In addition, we have several other businesses in this town owned by Jews, but who live out of town, never having lived in Wellsburg. Those who are in business in Wellsburg, but never have lived in Wellsburg, are:

David Levitt — a junk yard — living in Steubenville.

Al Izenson — a furniture store — living in Weirton, W. Va. (ten miles from Wellsburg).

Louis Askowitz — a junk yard — living in Steubenville, Ohio.
Abraham Pinsky — a lawyer — living in Follansbee, W. Va. (three miles from here.

Abraham Pinsky. Abraham Pinsky, whose biography is included under Follansbee, W. Va., was, in 1958, a member of the Wellsburg law firm of Pinsky and Mahan (Abraham Pinsky and Walter E. Mahan), but resided in nearby Follansbee. Abraham Pinsky lived in Wellsburg from 1925 to 1931, and then moved to Follansbee.

Leonard Bernstein. Leonard Bernstein, originally from Monongah, W. Va., studied medicine and became a physician, and moved to Wellsburg, where he died about 20 years ago [*ca.* 1938]. He was the brother of Jacob, Morris, and Max Bernstein, all originally from Monongah.

WEST LIBERTY

West Liberty is a town in Ohio County, located in northern West Virginia, in the Northern Panhandle, about nine miles northeast of Wheeling. It is the site of West Liberty State College, a coeducational institute founded in 1837.

In 1940, the general population of West Liberty was 420. In 1950, its population was 438. There were no Jews living in the town in 1957, nor had any Jews, apparently, ever lived in West Liberty.

However, a number of rabbis from cities in Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio, as well as from other States, had, from 1937 through 1957, paid visits to West Liberty State College, under the auspices of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, as follows:

1937: Rabbi Baruch Braunstein (formerly of Wheeling)
1938: Rabbi Ariel L. Goldburg (then of Charleston)
1939: Rabbi Abraham Shaw (of Baltimore)
1940: Rabbi Jacob M. Rothschild (of Atlanta, Ga.)
1941: Rabbi George B. Lieberman (then of Wheeling)
1942: Rabbi Aaron Lefkowitz (formerly of Cumberland, Md.)
1943: Rabbi Frederic A. Doppelt (of Fort Wayne, Ind.)
1944: Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg (of Toronto, Canada)
1945: Rabbi Charles B. Lesser (formerly of Wheeling)
1946: Rabbi Louis J. Cashdan (formerly of Charleston)
1947: Rabbi Moshay P. Mann (formerly of Wheeling)
1948: Rabbi Eugene E. Hibshman (formerly of Huntington)
1949: Rabbi Harold B. Waintrup (then of Steubenville, Ohio)
1950: Rabbi Murray I. Rothman (then of Pittsburgh)
1951: Rabbi Burton E. Levinson (formerly of Pittsburgh)
1952: Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman (formerly of Wheeling)
1955: Rabbi Melvin S. Sands (of Steubenville, Ohio)
1956: Rabbi Jakob J. Petuchowski (of the H. U. C. - J. I. R., Cincinnati)
1957 (February 20): Rabbi Philip Gershon (of Pittsburgh)

WESTON

GENERAL

Weston is a city in Lewis County, in north central West Virginia, located, at an altitude of 1,025 feet, on the West Fork of the Monongahela River, 18 miles south southwest of Clarksburg. Weston is the county seat of Lewis County, and is known, despite its comparatively small population, as an important trading city. It was founded in 1818, and it was incorporated, or chartered, as a city in 1847. Its main industry is glassmaking, and there are several large glass factories in the city, but in addition to the manufacture of glassware, and of lumber, Weston also has coal mines, and oil and natural gas wells, and it is located in a grazing (blue grass) and farming region which has large stands of several kinds of trees. A state hospital for the insane is located in Weston.

In 1950, according to the United States Census, Weston had a general population of 8,945. In 1940, again according to the Federal Census, Weston had a general population of 8,268, and in 1935 its general population was given as 8,646.

Jewish Residents of Weston

A small number of Jewish families have been living in Weston continuously ever since the early 1900's, or seemingly for a few years before that, or even for as much as a decade before that. It is believed that Bernard Kaplan settled in Weston about 1897, when he opened up Kaplan's Clothing Store. Victor and Annie Cohen Rubenstein, who later settled in Thomas, W. Va., and were the parents of Ruby Rubenstein, the former long-time mayor of Thomas, had come to Weston before 1894. In 1894, they left Weston, and settled in Thomas.

In 1927, the *AJYB* for 1927–1928 reported the presence in Weston of one Jewish congregation and 95 Jews. The figure of 95 for the Jewish population of Weston in that year appears to be considerably too high; it is more probable that in that year Weston's Jewish population consisted of some 40 to 50 persons.

In the 1936 Census of Religious Bodies, Weston (by county: Lewis) is listed as having 31 Jews. In 1937, there were reported, for Weston, the same figure of 31 Jews, and the existence of one congregation in the city, evidently without a synagogue building and without a rabbi or other religious functionary. In 1957, Weston had about 10 to 12 Jewish families, totaling perhaps 30 to 40 persons. An erroneous report in the *AJYB* for 1937 had it that Weston in that year had only 10 or fewer Jewish residents.

Weston Subscribers to the J. P. S. A.

From 1900–1901 on, Jewish residents of Weston were subscribers to the Jewish Publication Society of America, as follows:

1900–1901

Mrs. E. Klein
Mrs. Benjamin Lehman

1902–1903

Mrs. E. Klein

(In 1903–1904, Mrs. E. Klein gave up her membership in the J. P. S. A.)

1912–1913

H. [Henry] Blumberg

1915–1916

H. [Henry] Blumberg

1922–1923

H. [Henry] Blumberg
B. [Bernard] Kaplan
William Malkow

1930–1935

B. [Bernard] Kaplan

In 1957, there were no Jewish residents of Weston who were members of the J. P. S. A.

Sisterhood Activities in Weston

Apparently, there has never existed a separate Sisterhood organization among the Jewish women of Weston. It is of interest that during the term of office of Mrs. Edward Joseph, president of the Tree of Life Congregation Sisterhood of Clarksburg, in 1943 to 1945, the Clarksburg Sisterhood adopted the practice

of having one meeting a year in Weston, since a number of the members of the Clarksburg Sisterhood then came from Weston. Quite probably, in all the years since 1925 and thereafter, a number of Weston Jewish women were affiliated with the Clarksburg Tree of Life Sisterhood, and still are.

The Letter of Mrs. Morton S. Weinberg on the Jews of Weston

A letter written to me from Weston, W. Va., under date of June 14, 1956, by Mrs. Eleanor K. Weinberg (Mrs. Morton S. Weinberg), the daughter of J. H. Kaplan, presents an interesting and detailed account of present and past Jewish residents of Weston, as well as a brief picture of the scanty Jewish communal life in that city:

First, a list of the names and businesses of the Jewish families living at present in Weston:

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stern
The S. & S. Store
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blumberg
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Blumberg
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gasoff. Harry Gasoff conducted the Hub Furniture Store and the Hub Clothing Store in Weston in 1956. He came to Weston from New York in the late 1930's.
The Gem Furniture Store
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Caplan. Sam Caplan is retired from business.
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer [Irene] Moksay (Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Moksay formerly lived in Clarksburg.)
Caplan's Jewelry Store
Mr. and Mrs. Morton S. (Eleanor Kaplan) Weinberg
Kaplan's Clothing Store (at 165 Main Avenue) (owned by Morton S. Weinberg; *see* below)
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lang
Lang's Children's Center

As to when these Jewish families came to Weston, this can be only an approximation on my part:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blumberg first settled in Weston about 40 years ago [*ca.* 1916]. Bernard Blumberg is their son, and he was born in Weston; Harry Gasoff is their son-in-law.

Mrs. J. H. Stern is the daughter of Moe Schwartz, who came to Weston about 45 years ago [*ca.* 1911], and passed away several years ago. Moe Schwartz came here to go into business with his father-in-law, Jacob Freedenberg, who also died many years ago, and with his brother-in-law, Morris Freedenberg, who has also passed away.

Mr. [Sam] Lang has been in various businesses here for the last 35 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer [Irene] Moksay have been here just a few months. (They came to Weston from Clarksburg, where Mrs. Irene Moksay had served two one-year terms as president of the Tree of Life Sisterhood.) They took over Caplan's Jewelry Store when Mr. [Sam] Caplan retired.

Our store (Kaplan's Clothing Store) has been here for 59 years. It was originally started (in 1897) by Bernard Kaplan, my uncle, and then, at his death, it was taken over by my father, [his brother] J. H. Kaplan, and by my husband, Morton S. Weinberg. My father passed away five years ago [in 1951], and since that time we have been operating the store.

We (Morton S. and Eleanor K. Weinberg) have lived in Weston since 1920, and there have been many Jewish families going and coming ever since then. I really do not know the present whereabouts of any of them.

As to religious services, for a number of years they were conducted here by a man whom we got in for the High Holidays.[1] In more recent years, at least during the last fifteen years, we have been going to Clarksburg and participating in their services.

Other Jewish Residents of Weston in Past Years and in the Present

Rose Rubenstein Blumberg (Mrs. Bernard Blumberg). Mrs. Rose Rubenstein Blumberg, a daughter of Victor Rubenstein, of Thomas, W. Va., and a sister of Ruby Rubenstein, the former mayor of Thomas, was living in Weston in 1957; her husband, Bernard Blumberg, the son of Henry Blumberg, was engaged at that time in the ladies' ready-to-wear business in Weston. She moved from Thomas to Weston immediately after her marriage to Bernard Blumberg.

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[1] They were, presumably, held in a private home, or in a rented hall, since the Weston congregation, apparently, never had a full-time or even a part-time rabbi, and never had its own synagogue building, and apparently never conducted Sabbath religious services.

Mrs. E. Klein. Mrs. E. Klein lived in Weston in the early 1900's. (Her full first name is, apparently, now unknown.)

Isaac C. (I. Charles) Klein (Ike Klein). Isaac C. Klein, or I. Charles Klein (popularly known as Ike Klein), a materna uncle of Mrs. Sara Schwartz (Mrs. Simon) Schuchat, formerly of Marlinton, lived in Weston for a long time. He was presumably related to the early resident Mrs. E. Klein. I. Charles Klein owned a department store in Weston. He had a son and four daughters, presumably all born in Weston. His son died at an early age. Three of his daughters, all formerly at least long-time residents of Weston if they were not born there, now live in New York City, and one daughter lives in Princeton, N. J.

Louis Klein. Louis Klein, another maternal uncle of Mrs. Sara Schwartz (Mrs. Simon) Schuchat, formerly of Marlinton, lived in Weston for a time, and then settled in Marlinton, where he bought out the department store previously owned by A. [Abe] Harrison, and changed its name to Klein's Department Store.

William Malkow. William Malkow was a resident of Weston for a number of years *ca.* 1922–1923.

Max Nachman. Max Nachman, after operating a dry goods store in Sutton, W. Va., for a number of years, later removed to Weston. Presumably he was engaged in the same business in Weston. Still later, perhaps in the 1940's, he left Weston, and settled in Glenville, W. Va., together with his wife and only son, Isidore Nachman, where for years he operated a dry goods and clothing store. In 1954 the entire Max Nachman family settled in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Sam [Samuel] Rubenstein. Sam [Samuel] Rubenstein, a brother of Ruby Rubenstein, of Thomas, and of Mrs. Rose Rubenstein Blumberg, of Weston, lived in Weston for a number of years, and then left that city to settle in Webster Springs, W. Va.; in 1957–1958, he was still a resident of Webster Springs, where he was the owner of the Hub Men's Store, Incorporated.

Victor and Annie Cohen Rubenstein. Victor and Annie Cohen Rubenstein, the parents of Sam and Ruby Rubenstein and

of Mrs. Rose Rubenstein Blumberg, lived in Weston for a short while, before moving to Buckhannon, W. Va. This was, seemingly, in the early 1890's. In 1894, according to the Rubenstein family records, Victor and Annie Cohen Rubenstein left Weston for good, and settled in Thomas, W. Va., where Victor Rubenstein opened up a meat market, which he conducted in Thomas for many years. His occupation in Weston was thus, presumably, also that of meat market proprietor. Their eldest son, Ruby Rubenstein, also lived in Weston for a short time before settling permanently in Thomas, W. Va.

WESTOVER

Westover is a residential town in Monongalia County, in northern West Virginia, located on the Monongahela River, three miles southwest of Morgantown. Westover is contiguous and adjacent to Morgantown. It was incorporated in 1911. Westover is situated in an oil and natural gas region.

In 1950, according to the United States Census, Westover had a general population of 4,318, a considerable increase over its population in 1940, which was given as 1,752, and over that of 1935, which was reported to be 1,633.

Apparently, there were never any Jewish residents in Westover, nor any living there in 1957–1958. The Jews of the area, evidently, preferred to live in nearby Morgantown, with its larger community and its several Jewish communal institutions and organizations. This same feature and factor, as mentioned above, applied to others of the smaller towns, villages, and cities of West Virginia which are located adjacent to, or near, larger cities or towns of the State.

WEST UNION

West Union is a town in Doddridge County, in northern West Virginia, located 30 miles west of Clarksburg. It is the county seat of Doddridge County, and is located in a farming region. West Union was incorporated in 1850.

In 1950, the United States Census gave West Union a general population of 1,341. Previous figures for the general population of West Union are: 1940 (United States Census): 1,020; 1935: 984.

Of interest is a letter written to me from West Union, on July 4, 1957, by L. G. Pigott, an attorney of West Union, then serving as the mayor of the town, giving additional data about West Union:

> There are no Jews now living in West Union, and I do not recall of any ever having lived here.

West Union is thirty miles west of Clarksburg; its population is 1,400. Incorporated in 1881,[1] it was originally called Lewisport, and then Union, because a blockhouse had been built for protection against the Indians. When the railroad (the Baltimore & Ohio) was built, the main settlement moved a bit west, and the town was called West Union. Its principal industries are farming, oil, gas, and timber. The county seat of Doddridge County, West Union is located about midway on Middle Island Creek, the longest creek in the world.

[1] This date differs from the recorded date given above, of 1850.

WHEELING

GENERAL

Wheeling is a city, located in northern West Virginia, in the Northern Panhandle of the State, in Ohio County, on the Ohio River, some 70 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. It is noted as a commercial and manufacturing city, one of the chief business centers of the State, and the commercial and industrial center of the Northern Panhandle, and as a port of entry. At one time it was the largest city of West Virginia, later being outstripped in population by Huntington and Charleston. It was also, formerly, the State capital.

Wheeling is the county seat of Ohio County. It is today an extremely important manufacturing and commercial center. In the city, which has iron and steel plants, there are manufactured steel and iron products, sheet metal products, nails, tin plate, tobacco, tobacco stogies ("Wheeling stogies"), glassware, chinaware, porcelain, canned goods, packed meats, hardware, lumber and other wood products, textiles, tile, paper boxes, and other manufactured goods, including kitchenware, plastics, and pharmaceutical products. Situated in a rich soft coal and natural gas area of the State, Wheeling has natural gas wells and coal fields in its adjacent areas. Wheeling is the center of the northern branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh.

Wheeling was settled for the first time in the year 1769, under the name of Fort Fincastle (named in honor of the then governor of the State of Virginia), which fort was built at the top of what is now the Main Street hill as a defense against the Indians in 1774. (According to some historians, Fort Fincastle was erected on the site of what is now Wheeling in 1769.) Its founder was Ebenezer Zane, of Virginia, after whom Zanesville, Ohio, was named; Ebenezer Zane was, if not *the* founder, at least *one* of its founders and first settlers. In 1776, Fort Fincastle was renamed Fort Henry, after Patrick Henry. In the years 1777, 1781, and 1782, in the course of the Revolutionary War, it was attacked by

the Indians and British. In the latter year, one of the final skirmishes of the Revolutionary War was fought at Fort Henry, on the site of what is now Wheeling. Betty Zane gained fame when, by carrying a quantity of powder from the Zane cabin to Fort Henry, she saved the garrison from defeat and capture on one occasion, and thus saved also Fort Henry. No Jews had as yet settled, or were living, in or near the town or the fort at that early time.

After the Revolutionary War was over (1783), Wheeling was platted as a town, in 1793, by the same Colonel Ebenezer Zane, and two years later it was incorporated (1795). (A variant date given by historians for its incorporation as a town is 1806.) In 1797, Wheeling was made the county seat of Ohio County. In 1836 it was chartered as a city. According to some historians, Wheeling was chartered as a town in 1806, and incorporated as a city in 1836. Wheeling developed as an important trading post on the Cumberland Road (the road which led west and northwest from Cumberland, Md.). In 1818 Wheeling became the western terminus of the National Road. For many years it was the largest and most important city of what is now West Virginia, and (with the exception of Richmond in Old Virginia) of Virginia. In 1831, it became an important port of entry, and in 1852 it became a railhead, or railroad terminus.

During the early years of the Civil War, up to June 20, 1863, while it still remained a part of Virginia, Wheeling was a center of pro-Unionist activity. It was the site of the Wheeling conventions of 1861 and 1862 which provided the means for the breaking away of the northwestern counties from Virginia and for the forming of the new State of West Virginia out of these eleven northern and western (northwestern) counties of Virginia. Thus, after June 20, 1863, Wheeling formed a part of West Virginia. In 1861, it became the capital of the so-called "restored government of Virginia." Archibald W. Campbell, of Wheeling, is reputed to have "laid the groundwork for the independence of West Virginia; he is generally credited with having persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to recognize what is now West Virginia as a separate state." Wheeling served as the State capital of West Virginia from 1863 to 1870, and again was the

State capital from 1875 to 1885. In the latter year, Charleston became the permanent State capital.

Wheeling Island, a residential island one mile long, in the Ohio River west of Wheeling proper, between Wheeling and Bellaire, Ohio, is one of the main residential areas of the city, connected by bridges to Wheeling, to Bellaire, Ohio, to Bridgeport, Ohio, and to Martins Ferry, Ohio.

Wheeling is the site of a Roman Catholic Cathedral and of Oglebay Park.

The General Population of Wheeling

According to the United States Census of 1950, Wheeling had at that time a total general population of 58,891. In 1957, its general population was believed to be about 61,000. In 1935, its population was listed as 61,659, which may have been slightly too high a figure. Other general population figures for Wheeling in previous years include the following estimates or definite figures:

1917: 43,972
1920: 56,208 (United States Census of 1920)
1928–1929: 66,604 (no doubt, considerably too high, and a mere estimate)
1930–1935: 61,659 (perhaps too high a figure)
1940: 61,099 (United States Census of 1940)
1950: 58,891 (United States Census of 1950)
1956: 58,500 (estimated; representing a decided loss in population)
1957: 61,100 to 62,000 (estimated)

The Jewish Population of Wheeling

The following figures, or estimates, for the Jewish population of Wheeling have been culled from the various volumes of the *AJYB*, or have been taken from other sources or estimates:

1854: 17 resident families; and 13 additional Jewish families in the environs of Wheeling (estimated)

1877: 300 Jews
1905: 400 Jews
1907–1908: 550 (estimated)
1912: 500
1916–1917: 1,000 Jewish population (estimated)
(This was a bad estimate, having been much too high. Closer, perhaps, is the figure of 700 for the Jewish population in the year 1916–1917.)
1917–1918: 1,000 (estimated), out of a total general population of 43,972 in the city. It is to be noted that the figure 1,000 for the Jewish population of Wheeling is again considerably too high. It was, in all likelihood, purely a round-number estimate, made in the absence of any definite or certain figures.
1919–1920: 1,000 estimated Jewish population. The figure is once again too high; a far better estimate would be 650 to 700 Jews in Wheeling in 1919–1920.
1920: about 1,000, out of a total city population of 56,208 (United States Census for 1920). (Again, for the fourth time, this is merely a round number, again a poor estimate, and again, in all likelihood, the figure is much too high.)
1927: 750 (at a time when the city had three congregations)
(In 1927, for the first time since 1916–1917, if the previous figure of 1,000 *was* correct, the Jewish population declined below the 1,000 mark.)
1928–1929: 750 Jews, out of a total general population of 66,404, or 1.13% of the total population. (The figure of 66,404 for the general population of Wheeling in 1928–1929 would appear to be about 5,000 or more too high.) (*AJYB*, 1928–1929 [5689 A.M.], page 109)
1936: Census of Religious Bodies, 1936. Wheeling (by county: Ohio) is listed as having a Jewish population of 1,150.
(This figure is apparently too high by at least 200 to 300 persons. I have not found any direct,

definite evidence that the Wheeling Jewish population ever numbered as high as even 1,000 Jews; its Jewish population has always been less than that in the course of the entire century and more of the community's history.)

1936–1937: 750 (estimated)

1937: 1,150 (Again, this figure is, no doubt, too high, by several hundred persons.) (In 1937, Wheeling again, and still, had the same 3 Jewish congregations first mentioned in 1927.)

1940: 1,150 (This is once again merely an estimate, and once again, in all probability, too high.) (In 1940, according to the United States Census, Wheeling had a general population of 61,099.)

1945: 1,000 (This figure also, cited for the last time, is, in all likelihood, once again and for the last time too high, by 200 to 300 persons. It represents a bad guess in the absence of any actual count or any reliable figures.)

1948: 800

1950: 800

1954–1955: 800

1956: 800 (estimated) (250 families)

1957–1958: 800–850 (estimated) (and with the same three congregations still in existence)

1959: 800 (estimated Jewish population) (*AJYB*, 1960, Volume 61, page 8)

Wheeling Jewish Subscribers to the J. P. S. A.

From the very first, beginning with the year 1899, when the Jewish Publication Society of America was founded at Philadelphia, some of the members of Wheeling Jewry became subscribers, or members, and their names are listed in the several volumes of the *AJYB* from the year 1900–1901 (Volume 2, 5661 A.M.) up to the year 1941–1942 (Volume 43), the last volume and year in which the names of members of the J. P. S. A. were published at the back of each *AJYB* volume. Volume 2

was the first volume of the *AJYB* in which the names of members of the J. P. S. A. were listed by states, then alphabetically by cities, and then alphabetically by individuals, at the back of the volume. There were, thus, Jewish subscribers to the J. P. S. A. from Wheeling listed in every volume of the *AJYB* from 1900–1901 (Volume 2) up to, and including, 1941–1942 (Volume 43). In 1957, there were still four Jewish subscribers to the J. P. S. A. from Wheeling.

As in the case of all cities and towns in the United States, the several lists of subscribers, given below, to the J. P. S. A. carried in the volumes of the *AJYB* for the various years or quinquennial periods convey valuable data and information on the rabbis and on some of the Jewish residents of the community who were living in the city at any particular time.

The names of Wheeling Jews who were members of the J. P. S. A. from Volume 2 on, including various periods and new members, were as follows:

1900–1901

(Volume 2 of the *AJYB*, 5661 A.M.)

(18 members)

Joseph Emsheimer
David Gutman
Harburger Brothers
Hebrew Sunday School Library
(under the direction of Rabbi Harry Levi)
Bernhard Horkheimer
Julius Horkheimer
Louis Horkheimer
Morris Horkheimer
Israel Isenberg
Mrs. B. Jacobs
Reverend [Rabbi] Harry Levi
Lieberman & Grosheim
(not member in 1901–1902)
J. Reizenstein
S. M. Rice
Henry Sonneborn
M. Sonneborn
Henry Speyer
M. Steinfeld
(not a member in 1901–1902)

1902–1903 (5663 A.M.)

(7 members)

David Gutman
Hebrew Sunday School Library
(care of Rabbi Harry Levi)
Morris Horkheimer
Israel Isenberg

Reverend Harry Levi
M. Sonneborn
M. Speyer

1903–1904 (5664 A.M.)

(new members) (5)

B. [Ben] S. Baer
Henry Baer
Mrs. A. Enoch
Bernhard Horkheimer
(renewal of membership, after a lapse of several years)
S. M. Rice
(renewal of membership, after a lapse of several years)

1904–1905 (5665 A.M.)

(10 members)

B. [Ben] S. Baer
Henry Baer
Mrs. A. Enoch
David Gutman
(renewal, after a lapse of several years)
Hebrew Sunday School Library
(in care of Rabbi Harry Levi)
Bernhard Horkheimer
Morris Horkheimer
Rabbi Harry Levi
S. M. Rice
M. Sonneborn

1909–1910 (5670 A.M.)

(5 members)

Hebrew Sunday School Library
(in care of Rabbi Harry Levi)
Morris Horkheimer
Rabbi Harry Levi
S. M. Rice
M. Sonneborn

1911–1912 (5672 A.M.)

(new member)

I. E. Barker

1912–1913 (5673 A.M.)

(5 new members)

Ben S. Baer
Rabbi Abram I. Brill[1]
Max Crone
David Kraus
C. J. Wolf

1914–1915 (5675 A.M.)

(new member)

Frank J. Yaffe (Jaffe)

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[1] According to the records of the congregation, in 1911–1912 Rabbi Abram Brill (sometimes wrongly given in the congregational records as Abram I. Brill, and sometimes erroneously given in the *CCAR* as Abraham Brill) replaced Harry Levi as the minister of Congregation Leshem (L'shem) Shomayim.

Descendants of the Baer, Crone, Sonneborn, and Wolf families of these early years were still resident in Wheeling in 1957–1958.

1915–1916 (5676 A.M.)

Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron[1]
M. Sonneborn
Frank J. Jaffe

1915–1916

(new member)

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver[2]

1919–1920

(new member)

Rabbi Louis A. Mischkind[3]

1922–1923

(30 members)

S. Baer
C. Banov
H. H. Barach
S. Darris
S. G. Elpern
Eoff Street Temple Religious School (Congregation Leshem Shomayim)
S. K. Frank
A. J. Friedman
H. M. Front
Jacques Front
I. [T.] Goldinger
I. Gordon
M. Graff
F. Grossman
C. H. Jacobs
Mrs. M. Jacobs
Solomon Kirness
L. Kraft
H. S. Levine [Levin]
J. Levine
J. E. Moss
L. Neistadt
A. Reichblum
Mrs. J. Robinson
Benjamin L. Rosenbloom
S. H. Sachs
Max Schafer
M. Sonneborn
L. B. Stein
H. Sweetwine

1924–1929

(a total of 20 separate members for this five-year period)

H. H. Barach
I. Farer
H. N. Friedman
H. M. Front
T. Goldinger
I. Gordon

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[1] Who replaced Rabbi Abram Brill as rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in September, 1914.

[2] Who replaced Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron as rabbi of the Reform Congregation, in September, 1915.

[3] Who replaced Rabbi Louis D. Gross as rabbi of the Reform Congregation in September, 1918.

M. Graff
L. Horkheimer
L. Kraft
H. S. Levine [Levin]
J. E. Moss
Rabbi I. Perilman [Rabbi Jacob Perilman][1]
A. Reichblum
Dr. H. G. Robin [later corrected to Rubin]
Benjamin L. Rosenbloom
Max Schafer
Rabbi Charles E. Shulman[2]
M. Sonneborn
L. B. Stein
H. Sweetwine

1930–1935

(15 members)

H. H. Barach
The Eoff Street Temple (the Reform Congregation of Wheeling)
I. Farer
Rabbi L. Fisher [Louis Fischer][3]
L. Horkheimer
M. [Max] Horne
H. S. Levin
J. E. Moss
Rabbi I. [an error for Jacob] Perilman
A. Reichblum
Benjamin L. Rosenbloom
Dr. H. G. Rubin
Rabbi Charles E. Shulman
M. Sonneborn
Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman[4]

1935–1936

(9 members)

Rabbi Baruch Braunstein[5]
The Eoff Street Temple
Rabbi L. Fisher [Louis Fischer]
L. Horkheimer
M. [Max] Horne
H. S. Levin
Rabbi I. [Jacob] Perilman
Dr. H. G. Rubin
Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman[6]

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[1] The initial I. is an error. Rabbi Jacob Perilman served as the minister of the smaller Wheeling Orthodox Congregation Ohev Sholom from 1921 to 1935.

[2] Who in 1927 replaced Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg as rabbi of the Reform Congregation. Misspelled as Schulman in some of the *AJYB* records.

[3] Rabbi Louis Fischer served in Wheeling during part of this quinquennial period as the rabbi of the Orthodox (later Conservative) Synagogue of Israel, through the year 1935.

[4] Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman, in September, 1931, replaced Charles E. Shulman as rabbi of the Reform Congregation Leshem Shomayim, or the Eoff Street Temple.

[5] In September, 1934, Rabbi Baruch Braunstein replaced Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman as rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple.

[6] The year was for 1934–1935. Until September, 1934, Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman was rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple.

1936–1941

(25 members)

W. S. Combs
I. Farer
S. L. Good
S. [Sidney] S. Good
D. M. Gutman
Julius I. Harr
Nathan Harrison
Ernest S. Horkheimer
L. Horkheimer
Miss E. L. Katz
Maurice E. Kaufman
Mrs. G. Levenson
R. L. Levenson
H. S. Levin
Rabbi N. [Nathan] H. Levinson[1]
Rabbi George B. Lieberman[2]
S. S. Lipman
H. Mallinger
I. I. Mendelson
S. Newman
Ohio County Public Library
Samuel Posin
B. Resnick
J. Rubin
S. L. Schwarz

1941–1942

In 1941–1942, the last year in which the *AJYB* (Volume 43) carried the names of the members of the J. P. S. A., Wheeling had the following 14 such members:

J. Bernhardt
H. L. Cooper
Samuel K. Frank
S. L. Good
Sidney S. Good
Julius I. Harr
Ernest S. Horkheimer
Max Horne
Maurice E. Kaufman
G. A. Levenson
H. S. Levin
Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Samuel Posin
Robert Rubin

1956–1957

In 1956–1957, there were the following four members from Wheeling in the J. P. S. A.:

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[1] In 1937, Rabbi Nathan H. Levinson succeeded Rabbi Lewis Goldberg as rabbi of the Synagogue of Israel.

[2] In September, 1936, Rabbi George B. Lieberman succeeded Rabbi Baruch Braunstein as the rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple.

Jewish Community Council (joined in 1955)
(care of Isadore A. Rubinstein)
H. S. Levine [Levin]
(rejoined as a member in 1945)
Samuel Posin
(rejoined as a member in 1948)
Mrs. Alex Wishnew
(joined in 1947)

1958–1959

Three Wheeling Jews were members of the J. P. S. A. in 1958–1959:

H. S. Levine [Levin]
Mrs. Samuel Posin
Mrs. Alex Wishnew

Wheeling Members of the American Jewish Historical Society

1905–1906

Samuel C. Bloch was a member of the American Jewish Historical Society, of New York, in the years 1905 and 1906.

1957–1958

In 1957–1958, the following three members of the Wheeling Jewish community were members of the American Jewish Historical Society:

Mrs. Charles Lando
Mrs. Samuel Rudner
Mrs. Alex Wishnew

Early Periodical Items on Wheeling Jewry[1]

1843

In 1843, Alexander Heyman, of Wheeling, was listed in Isaac Leeser's *The Occident*, of Philadelphia, as a subscriber. This is, apparently, the earliest datum extant from Wheeling — it is dated as of Wheeling, *Va.* — at a time when Wheeling was still a part of the State of Virginia.

1846

The report that the Jews of Wheeling, Va., held religious services there on the [High] Holidays, in 1846 (*The Occident*, Volume IV [1846], page 405).

In November, 1846, on the same page of *The Occident*, Isaac Leeser expressed the view that there were enough Jews in Wheeling, "in Western Virginia," to form a small congregation, and he stated that he believed also that the Jews of Wheeling had [previously] met for prayers.

1849

The Occident (Volume VII [1849], page 225) mentions the purchase, in 1849, of a piece of ground for a cemetery by the Jews of Wheeling. The same page carries a notice to the effect that [High] Holy Day services [for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur] were scheduled to be held in Wheeling in 1849. (There was no synagogue of the congregation or in the city at that early period. Undoubtedly, as was the case with other Jewish communities of West Virginia, both larger and smaller, these High Holy Day services were intended to be held in a rented hall of some kind, presumably in the business section of the city.)

The text of this notice, printed in July, 1849, which is one of the first periodical notices about the Jews in Wheeling or in the whole of what is now West Virginia (and from which [or shortly

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[1] Including later items, up to the present time.

thereafter] I have taken my *terminus a quo* date of *1850* for the beginning of this history of West Virginia Jewry), reads as follows, as written by Isaac Leeser:

"We learn that the Israelites of Wheeling, Va., and vicinity, are about to purchase, or perhaps have done so already, a piece of ground for a burial place, and that they hope to assemble in considerable numbers for public worship at the approaching holydays."

Isidor Busch's *Israels Herold*, in No. 9 (May 25, 1849), page 71, column 2, names the following "subscribers to *Israels Herold* from Wheeling, Virginia: J. and A. Ballenberg*er* and the Messrs. Jost and Block." J. and A. Ballenberg*er* no doubt stand for Julius and Adolph Ballenberg, and the Mr. Block would appear to have been Salomon J. Bloch, of Wheeling.

1850

In a "List of Jewish Congregations in the United States That Existed in 1850," published in the *AJYB* (1938–1939 [5699 A.M.], pages 67–68), the only such Jewish congregation in West Virginia [then Virginia] was the one in Wheeling, about which it is stated as follows:

West Virginia (Virginia)
Ohio County (Wheeling)
Leshem Shamayyim [Shomayim] (founded in 1849)

1852

In 1852, the Wheeling, Va., congregation was reported in *The Occident* to be a congregation without a Chazan [cantor] or a Shochet [ritual slaughterer of animals and poultry].[1] This item is to be found in *The Occident*, Volume X (for May, 1852), page 108, and it was written by Leeser himself. Leeser, who wrote or

[1] In those days, very often, in the early American Jewish congregations, the same man would perform both functions, as well as those of reader and/or teacher, for the congregation.

rewrote all the news items published in his journal, made a tour of the Southern and Western States, to Memphis, St. Louis, Louisville, and other cities, from November, 1851, to early February, 1852, and in the course of this trip, one of three or four extended trips or tours which he made in those years (the years in which he edited and published *The Occident*, from 1843 to 1868), he paid a brief visit of only a few hours' duration to Wheeling (the only visit he ever made to West Virginia in all his life). As Leeser describes it in the above-cited passage:

> We[1] were only a few hours in this place [Wheeling, Va., as he calls it], during part of a very inclement day. The president of the congregation was Mr. S. I. Block, but they had neither Hazan nor Shochet, if we understood correctly. We hope that before this,[2] this defect has been supplied. We failed to obtain any extensive information, which we hope to be favoured with hereafter, by some of our friends.[3]

1854

In 1854, through S. [Simon] Aub, the Jews of Wheeling contributed a total of $237.95 to the Palestine Relief Fund, "in aid of our suffering brethren in Palestine"; the Reverend Samuel Myer Isaacs, minister of Shaaray Tephila Congregation, in New York, was chief collecting agent[4] for this Palestine Relief Fund — a fund established for the purpose of assisting Palestine Jews oppressed by famine and unemployment — in the United States at that time (*The Occident*, XII [1854], page 325).

On pages 325 and 326 of the same Volume XII (1854), *The Occident* carried a complete account of the meeting held by

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[1] This is the "editorial *we*"; Leeser means himself alone; he was alone on the tour, or trip.

[2] Before the publication of this item in *The Occident*.

[3] Apparently, Leeser never did receive the desired information "from his friends in Wheeling" about the Wheeling congregation, for the next three items on Wheeling in *The Occident* date from the years 1854 and 1859, fully two and five years later. The first concerns a meeting held at Wheeling in July, 1854, for the benefit of the Palestine Relief Fund; the second treats of the condition of the congregation in 1854; and the third deals with the name of a Wheeling subscriber to his periodical in 1859.

[4] Undoubtedly, by mail; he never came to visit the Wheeling congregation.

the Jews of Wheeling, in aid of this Palestine Relief Fund, on July 2, 1854:

WHEELING, [WEST] VA. — At a meeting of the Israelites of this city, at the Synagogue,[1] on Sunday, July 2d [1854], P.M., for the purpose of taking measures to relieve their distressed brethren in Jerusalem. Mr. J. [Julius] Ballenberg was elected Chairman, Mr. M. [Max] Moss, Secretary, and Mr. S. [Simon] Aub, Treasurer.

The object of the meeting having been briefly stated by the Chairman, it was on motion

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to solicit subscriptions [donations], and that Messrs. Ballenberg, D. Stein, and S. [Simon] Aub be said committee.

Whereupon a subscription [contributors'] list was opened, which was signed by those present; and, on motion, it was farther

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the city papers, and in the *Occident*.

JULIUS BALLENBERG, President.

M. [MAX] MOSS, Secretary.

The undersigned beg leave to express their thanks to the public who have, without regard to sect or party, so cheerfully donated to the relief fund of the distressed Israelite[s] in Palestine.

At the same time, they feel in duty bound to acknowledge with pleasure the liberality of the Wheeling press [newspapers], who have kindly volunteered to open their columns in behalf of this charitable object.

The contributions received to date from this city amounted to .	$237.95
The contributions received at Steubenville, Ohio	110.18
Total	$348.13

Which sum has been sent on to the Rev. S. M. [Samuel Myer] Isaacs, in New York.

SIMON AUB,
D. STEIN.

WHEELING, VIRGINIA. The Israelites here have now a regularly organized congregation, consisting of twenty-five to thirty members. The number of resident families is seventeen. The officers are: Julius

[1] This undoubtedly meant the rented quarters or rooms of the congregation; there was as yet, in these very early years, no actual synagogue building in Wheeling.

Ballenburg [Ballenberg], president; M. [Max] Moss, secretary; and Adolph Ballanburg [Ballenberg], treasurer. The Rev. Joel Eppinger, late of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been elected Hazan, Shochet, and Teacher" (*The Occident*, XII [June, 1854], page 168).[1]

1855

In the June and July, 1855, advertising pages of *The Occident*, on page 2, the Reverend I. [Isaac] Strouse is listed as a subscriber to *The Occident* from Cumberland, Md., at that time (1855).[2]

1856

In the *Occident* advertising supplement, page 2, of the issue of November, 1856 (Volume XIV), Messrs. S. Segal and D. Stein, of Wheeling, Va., are listed as subscribers to *The Occident* (of Philadelphia) for the year 1856–1857.

In the advertising supplement of *The Occident*, Volume XIV (November, 1856), the Reverend Isaac Straus (spelled also as Strouse and Strause) is again listed as a subscriber to *The Occident* in 1856 [1856–1857] from Cumberland, Md.[3]

1857

In December, 1857, M. Hyman, of Wheeling, Va., is listed in *The Occident* as a subscriber, on page 2 of the advertising pages of the issue for that month.

1859

In June, 1859, L. Rheinstrom is listed in *The Occident* as a subscriber, from Wheeling.

Isaac Strouse, formerly of Pottsville, Pa., was elected Chazan

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[1] Presumably, the members who were not from Wheeling came from Steubenville, Ohio, and other neighboring towns and cities.

[2] Four years later, he came to the Wheeling congregation as Chazan.

[3] After leaving Wheeling, as we find in later volumes of *The Occident*, he served congregations in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and other cities, remaining an *Occident* subscriber for some time.

of the congregation in Wheeling, in 1859 (*Occident*, XVII [1859], 144).

In a letter written on January 4, 1859, to the noted Reform rabbi and leader, David Einhorn, of Baltimore, from Wheeling, [then] Virginia, Augustus Pollack, secretary of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Wheeling, informed Dr. Einhorn that he had been elected an honorary member of the Wheeling Society at a special meeting held two days previously. The letter, written to Einhorn in German, states that the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Wheeling had been organized only a short time previously (*Sinai*, Volume IV [February, 1859], No. 1, pages 26–27).

(*Sinai*, of David Einhorn, Volume IV [October, 1859], No. 9, pages 283–284)

"Wheeling, August [1859]. According to report, the local Israelites have taken Mr. Strauss[1] as teacher. If we are not mistaken, he was engaged for five years as preacher, teacher, cantor, and [ritual] slaughterer by the Israelite congregation at Portsville [Pottsville], Pa., and hardly three years of this period have thus far elapsed. Hence the change of position is all the more striking, since the local Jews [of Wheeling] have not yet even organized into a congregation, and, although they possess a place for worship, together with a Scroll of the Law, nonetheless, with the exception of the New Year and the Day of Atonement festivals, they do not hold any public religious worship throughout the entire year."

1860

M. [Meyer] Rheinstrom was the treasurer of the Hebrew Congregation (Congregation Leshem Shomayim, later known, for many years, until about 1958, as the Eoff Street Temple), of Wheeling, in January, 1860. According to a brief news item contained in *The Occident* in its issue of January 19, 1860, M. [Meyer] Rheinstrom succeeded in securing donations totalling

[1] Isaac Strause, or Straus, or also Strouse.

$24 in January, 1860, from members of the Hebrew Congregation, of Wheeling, Va., for the relief of the Jewish refugees who had been forced by warfare to flee from Morocco late in 1859, and who were then taking refuge at Gibraltar. For the most part, this collection of funds was made under the auspices of the newly formed (1859) Board of Delegates of American Israelites, which had its headquarters in New York City, and of which Henry I. Hart was president, Myer S. Isaacs secretary, and Isaac Leeser himself a vice president.

1862

(*Sinai*, Volume VII [October, 1862], No. 9, pages 257–258)

"Wheeling, Va. September 10 [1862]. Reverend Fuld [B. L. Fould], who has up to now been in Cleveland [Ohio], was engaged by the local Jewish congregation[1] as teacher and preacher. To the previous work of this man there corresponds the hope that he will possess sufficient skilfulness and inclination to bring to excellent development the Reform convictions of the congregation, which is determined to introduce a choir and an organ into its synagogue [place of worship]."[2]

(*Sinai*, Volume VII [November, 1862], No. 10, page 287)

"Wheeling, Va. October 19 [1862]. In our congregation there is a great deal of activity going on. The children's school has been opened, and it will — with the help of God! — fulfill the expectations of the parents. There prevails in our synagogue institution a new spirit, and the solemn divine services held on the recent high festival days [Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur], at which a choir, which had barely been brought into existence

[1] Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

[2] Reverend Fuld was, apparently, and definitely, B. L. Fould (his first full name is now unknown), who came to Anshe Chessed (Chesed) Congregation, in Cleveland, in 1850, as Chazan, preacher in German and English, and as the teacher of the Sabbath School. He served that congregation in Cleveland for twelve years, from 1850 to September, 1862; from 1850 to 1860 he was its rabbi, among other functions; from 1860 to 1862, apparently, he served not as its rabbi, but as its preacher, cantor, and teacher.

[which had been recently organized], delighted us with some vocal music; Piyutim [liturgical poems] and Selichoth [prayers for forgiveness of sins] were in part abolished; and a suitable address [sermon] replaced them — [all this] did not fail to exercise its beneficent influence upon the minds [of the congregational members]. On all sides there resounds the cry: Forward!"[1]

1879

Jacob Vogelsdorff,[2] who served for a short time as the rabbi [minister] of the Wheeling congregation (from August, 1879, to January 1, 1880), was described as a drunkard, wife-deserter, and originally as having been a cigarmaker, by Maftir (Choynski), of San Francisco (*The American Israelite*, October 3, 1879, page 2, column 2). His name is given and spelled also as Jacob Theodor Vogelsdorf, and he was believed to have been from Germany.[3]

However, the Reverend Jacob Theodor Vogelsdorf was solemnly exonerated[4] in highly flattering terms by the Board of Trustees of the Wheeling Congregation [Congregation Leshem Shomayim] in the fall of 1879 from the above charges, according to *The American Israelite* for October 10, 1879 (page 7, column 1). At any rate, within the next two or three months, by January 1, 1880, Jacob Theodor Vogelsdorf, despite his one-year contract with the congregation beginning in August, 1879, had left Wheeling, and was no longer the minister of the congregation.

He was succeeded as rabbi of the congregation by I. [Isaac] N. Saenger, who came to Wheeling from his former position in Petersburg, Va., on April 1, 1880. I. N. Saenger remained in Wheeling for only a few months.

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[1] Apparently, the above news item was taken from a report sent in to David Einhorn by his Wheeling correspondent.

[2] Spelled also as Vogelsdorf.

[3] It is practically a certainty that he was of German origin. His name is generally spelled with one *f* at the end in the congregational records.

[4] No doubt, this was merely for the sake of "public consumption," or for the "public record."

The Y. M. H. A. [Young Men's Hebrew Association] was founded in Wheeling in 1879.

1880

As of November 1, 1880, Morris Sessler was elected minister of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, for one year, until November 1, 1881, at a salary of $800 per annum. He was re-elected as minister of the Wheeling congregation six consecutive times, despite some opposition to him on the part of some of the members, and for the last two years of his rabbinical career in Wheeling (in 1886 and 1887) he received an increase in salary to $850 per annum. Morris Sessler served until December 1, 1887, shortly after which, apparently early in the year 1888, his successor, Rabbi Benjamin A. Bonnheim, came to Wheeling, seemingly by or about April 1, 1888.

1882

In 1882, the Hebrew Emigrant [Immigrant] Aid Society of New York "shipped" several of the Jewish immigrants into the United States in that year, out of a large group of such, to Wheeling for settlement. Out of a total of seven such Jewish immigrants sent to Wheeling in 1882, there were one man, one woman, and five children, presumably one large family.

In addition, in the period from June 1 to August 1, 1882, out of a second such group of Jewish immigrants into the United States from Russia and from other Slavic lands at that time, the Hebrew Emigrant [Immigrant] Aid Society sent one Jewish emigrant to Wheeling.

1898

About the year 1898 [or 1899], the Wheeling congregation (Congregation Leshem Shomayim) adopted the *Union Prayer Book*, which had recently been published by the C. C. A. R. (*CCAR*, VIII, 1898–1899 [5659 A.M.], page 31).

1899

On the occasion of the 80th birthday of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, president of the Hebrew Union College and rabbi of Bnai Jeshurun Congregation in Cincinnati, Rabbi Harry Levi, of Wheeling, presented the congratulations of his congregation, Leshem Shomayim, at the special convention of the C. C. A. R., held at Cincinnati on March 13 to 18, 1899. The report in the *CCAR* reads as follows:

"Bro.[ther] Harry Levi, of Wheeling, offered congratulations on behalf of his Congregation, and mentioned that he had on the day before presented Dr. Wise with a loving cup, as a token of remembrance from his Congregation" (*CCAR*, IX [erroneously numbered VIII?], 1899 [5659 A.M.], page 63). The famous Cincinnati rabbi lived for only one year after this gala anniversary occasion.

1901

On October 4 or 8, 1901, Rabbi Harry Levi ordered 100 copies of the then comparatively new *Union Hymnal*, issued by the C. C. A. R., for use in his Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling (*CCAR*, XII, 1902 [5662 A.M.], page 46). For several years thereafter, the congregation continued to use and purchase this *Union Hymnal*, and a few reports of accounts of Rabbi Levi with the Central Conference for their purchase are to be found in the *Yearbooks* of those early years of the first decade of the 20th century.

1903–1904

In 1903–1904, S. M. Rice, of Wheeling, was a member of the Auxiliary Board of Directors of the National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives, in Denver.

In the same year (1903–1904) (as reported in the *AJYB* for 1904–1905 [5665 A.M.], page 359), Henry Jacobs, of Wheeling, bequeathed $200 to the Wise Memorial Fund, in memory of Isaac Mayer Wise (this Fund was raised and distributed under the auspices of the C. C. A. R.]; $200 to Congregation Leshem

Shoma[y]im; and $100 to the City Hospital, the latter two of Wheeling.

1905

A Rabbi Wise Ward in the City Hospital was furnished by the Jewish women of Wheeling, in memory of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, of Cincinnati, who had died in March, 1900, at Cincinnati, at the age of 81 (*The American Israelite*, October 19, 1905, page 3).

1905–1907

In 1905 to 1907, Rabbi Harry Levi served as a member of the C. C. A. R. Standing Committee on Church and State (*CCAR*, XVI [1906], 7, 11, 151; XVII [1907], 5).

1906–1907

In 1906–1907, a contribution was made by the Jewish community of Wheeling, or by individual Jews of the city, to the Fund Collected for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Russian Outrages of October to November, 1905.

In 1906–1907 the *AJYB* (5667 A.M., page 209) reported that the Rabbi [Isaac Mayer] Wise Guild, of Wheeling, furnished a ward in the City Hospital in memory of the great Cincinnati Reform Jewish leader (cf., above, under the year 1905).

1907–1908

In 1907–1908 [5668 A.M.], the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim was listed in the *AJYB* as affiliated with the U. A. H. C., one of the three West Virginia Jewish congregations so affiliated in that year.

In the same year, Wheeling Lodge, No. 615, of the B'nai B'rith, was in existence, with Joseph Raduziner as its secretary (*AJYB*, 1907–1908 [5668 A.M.], page 80).

1909

On April 23, 1909, Congregation Leshem Shomayim celebrated its 60th anniversary, having been founded in April, 1849 (*AJYB*, 1909–1910 [5670 A.M.], page 107).

Morris Horkheimer, of Wheeling, was appointed by the Governor of West Virginia a member of his staff, in May, 1909 (*AJYB*, 1909–1910 [5670 A.M.], page 227).

1910

In March, 1910, Rabbi Harry Levi, of Wheeling, was elected State vice president of the Child Labor Commission, director of the Wheeling Playgrounds Association, secretary of the Probation Officers' Association, and secretary of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society (*AJYB*, 1910–1911 [5671 A.M.], page 330).

List of Contributors to the Alliance Israélite Universelle: April 2, 1910. Harry Levi, Congregation Leshem Shomayim, Wheeling, W. Va., $22.00 (*CCAR*, XX [1910], page 76). Apparently, this was a one-time collection taken up in Wheeling by Harry Levi from among the members of his congregation and from himself for the benefit of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, of Paris.

1911

In 1911 through 1914, the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim was listed in the *AJYB* as an affiliate of the U. A. H. C.

The synagogue of B'nai Israel Congregation, in Wheeling, was dedicated on September 15, 1911 (*AJYB*, 1912–1913 [5673 A.M.], page 288).

1912

A petition praying for the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832 with Russia was presented to Congress, on July 3, 1912, by citizens of Wheeling.

On March 18, 1912, M. Sonneborn,[1] of Wheeling, contributed $5.00 to the C. C. A. R. Relief Fund (*CCAR*, XXII [1912], 57, 90).

Again, in 1912, this time as a regular annual gift, M. Sonneborn contributed $5.00 to the C. C. A. R. Relief Fund (*CCAR*, XXIII [1913], 92).

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[1] The full first name of M. Sonneborn is not found or given in the early records of the Wheeling congregation and community; it was Moses.

1912–1913

A new local Jewish organization is listed for Wheeling for 1912–1913: the New Club, with Dr. Wineburger as its secretary.

Also, a new local congregation is mentioned: Congregation Ohev Sholom, at 1138 Main Street; secretary, Isaac Marcus, of 1021 Main Street; Rabbi, Isaac Cooper, of 831 Market Street (*AJYB*, 1913–1914 [5674 A.M.], page 413).[1]

1913

In 1913, there was still in existence, in the Wheeling Jewish community, a lodge of the B'nai B'rith, as recorded in *AJYB*, 1913–1914 [5674 A.M.], page 370.

In 1913, the Wheeling Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society joined the N. F. T. S., which was newly organized on January 22, 1913, as an affiliated member (*AJYB*, 1913–1914 [5674 A.M.], page 384). It was the first Temple Sisterhood in West Virginia to do so; and thus, in that year, it was the only Temple Sisterhood in the entire State which was affiliated with the N. F. T. S.

In the same year (1913), Bishop P. J. Donahue, of Wheeling, participated in the American protest against the Mendel Beilis blood libel [ritual murder accusation] in Kiev, Russia, made in that year (*AJYB*, 1914–1915 [5675 A.M.], page 82).

1914

Wheeling had, in 1914, again a Young Men's Hebrew Association, which was affiliated with the Council of Young Men's Hebrew and Kindred Associations, which latter group was organized in November, 1913. The Wheeling Y. M. H. A. was the only one in the State at the time. Organized as a new group

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[1] The following facts are not recorded in the above-mentioned volume of the *AJYB*, but the secretary of Congregation Ohev Sholom, Isaac Marcus, who served in this position for one year, is the older brother of Dr. Jacob R. Marcus; and his father, Aaron Marcus, was president of the new congregation for about two years, ever since its organization, and a charter member, until the Marcus family moved away from Wheeling to Farmington, W. Va., in 1915.

in 1914–1915, it had its headquarters in the People's Bank Building, and its secretary was Samuel Orenstein [Ornstein], of 1109 Main Street. The purpose of the Y. M. H. A. was stated to be educational (*AJYB*, 1915–1916 [5676 A.M.], pages 290, 339).

In 1914, the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society was listed as still affiliated with the N. F. T. S. (*AJYB*, 1914–1915 [5675 A.M.]); it was, apparently, not yet designated by the name Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood or by the name Congregation Leshem Shomayim Temple Sisterhood.

1915–1916

In 1915–1916, a brief mention is made in the *AJYB* for 1915–1916 (5676 A.M., page 234) of a B'nai B'rith Lodge in existence in Wheeling, and affiliated with D. G. L., No. 3.

In 1915–1916, also, the Wheeling Sisterhood, the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, was recorded as being affiliated with the N. F. T. S., which, organized on January 22, 1913, then had its offices at 107 Carew Building, in Cincinnati.

1916

Beginning on February 20, 1916, the monthly *Jewish Community Bulletin* was published in Wheeling. (It is not known when its publication ceased.)

The American Israelite for November 23, 1916 (page 1), carried a sketch of the history of the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim [the Eoff Street Temple]. Mentioned are the facts that the congregational cemetery was acquired in the year 1849; that the congregation itself was organized and established in 1856; and that the Temple [the first synagogue which the congregation had ever had] was dedicated on April 8, 1892.[1]

1916–1917

No rabbi is listed for Congregation Leshem Shomayim [Reform], for the year 1916–1917, in the "List of Rabbis and

[1] According to other, apparently more reliable, sources and records, Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, was founded in 1849, and not in 1856.

Instructors in Jewish Colleges in the United States" published in the *AJYB* in the volume for 1917–1918 [5678 A.M.], pages 367–395.

M. Nathanson, of 98 15th Street, Wheeling, is listed as the rabbi of Ohev Sholom Congregation, at 1433 South Street, for the year 1916–1917, in the "List of Rabbis and Instructors in Jewish Colleges in the United States" (*AJYB*, 1917–1918 [5678 A.M.], pages 367–395).

1917

Louis D. Gross, thitherto the rabbi of Temple Israel (Reform) of Akron, Ohio, was installed as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, in September, 1917 (*The American Israelite*, September 13, 1917).[1]

1919–1920

The Jewish Community Bulletin was being published monthly in Wheeling in 1919–1920. It was established in January, 1916 (*AJYB*, 1919–1920 [5680 A.M.], page 590).

1922–1923

In a list entitled "Jews of Prominence in the United States," published in the *AJYB* for 1922–1923 [5683 A.M.), there is listed, on page 195:

Benjamin L. Rosenbloom, Congressman, born in Braddock, W. Va. [Pa.], in 1880; residence, Wheeling, W. Va.

1927

The Associated Jewish Charities was organized in Wheeling in 1927, and reference to it was made for the first time in the

[1] Louis D. Gross remained as rabbi in Wheeling for only a year or less, leaving this position in order to become a chaplain in the United States Armed Forces in the First World War. He did not return to Wheeling in September, 1918, or after the end of that War in November, 1918.

AJYB at that time (*AJYB*, 1927–1928 [5688 A.M.], pages 214, 217). It was located at 12th and Chapline Streets, and its director at that time was Herbert O. Baer. It had 500 members (a number which appears to be very much too high, even if women were counted as separate members; perhaps 500 was a misprint for 50 or 150), and it had at that time an annual income of $5,000.

1935

The celebration of the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Eoff Street Temple was held on March 27 to 30, 1935 (*AJYB*, 1935–1936 [5696 A.M.], page 220).[1]

1936–1937

Wheeling, in 1936–1937, with a Jewish population of 750 [estimated], had the Federated Jewish Charities, with H. [Herbert] O. Baer as its director, and with its headquarters located at 12th and Chapline Streets; this organization was established in 1925, and it was not incorporated. It was affiliated at that time with the Wheeling Community Chest.

The Jewish community of Wheeling had, for many years in the past, the following active organizations whose existence is recorded:

B'nai B'rith lodge	Junior Hadassah chapter
Hadassah chapter	Zionist District

1937–1938

(*AJYB*, 1937–1938 [5698 A.M.], page 721)

Federated Jewish Charities, 16th and Main Streets

H. [Herbert] O. Baer, director.
Established in 1925, and not incorporated.

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[1] This would set the date of the founding of Congregation Leshem Shomayim as in March, 1850.

Affiliated with the Wheeling Community Chest.
Primarily a family welfare agency.
$2,000 expenditures in 1936.

Jewish Central Committee

Sigmund J. Front, chairman;
Ralph L. Miller, secretary.
The Jewish Central Committee conducts an annual campaign for non-local agencies.

1938–1939

(*AJYB*, 1938–1939 [5699 A.M.], page 514)

Jewish Central Committee

Located in the Board of Trade Building.
Ernest S. Horkheimer, president; Ralph L. Miller, secretary.
Established in 1933.
The Jewish Central Committee conducts a campaign [annually] for contributions to non-local agencies, and finances local services through the Federated Jewish Charities, of Wheeling.
Expenditures of the Jewish Central Committee in 1937 were $3,494.

The name of the Jewish Central Committee (organized in 1932 [1933]) was changed, in 1939, to the Jewish Community Council of Wheeling. Under this name it carried on, each year, philanthropic drives and other communal activities.

1941–1942

The Jewish Community Council of Wheeling (including Moundsville) Organized in 1933.
John Wiseman, president (in 1941–1942); and Sam Crone, secretary, care of Max Crone and Company, Market Street.

Jewish Communal Institutions in Wheeling (1900 to 1959)[1]

1899–1900

(*AJYB*, 1899–1900 [5660 A.M.], Volume 1, page 269)

Wheeling

Congregation Leshem Shomayim, 12th and Eoff Streets [1214 Eoff Street]

Founded on November 12, 1849
Harry Levi, rabbi in 1899–1900

Officers in 1899–1900
President: Samuel Kraft
Vice President: Joseph Emsheimer

Trustees of the Congregation (besides Samuel Kraft, president, and Joseph Emsheimer, vice president):

Henry Baer
Lee Baer
Bernard [Bernhard] Horkheimer
Lewis Horkheimer
Ralph Kline

The Board of Trustees meets every month
107 members in the Congregation
Religious Services are held on Friday at 8.00 P.M., and on Saturday at 10.30 A.M.
Religious School is held on Saturday, at 9.30 A.M., and on Sunday, at 9.30 A.M. [two sessions weekly]
75 pupils in the Religious School

Auxiliary Societies [of Congregation Leshem Shomayim] in Wheeling in 1899–1900:

Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society [of the Eoff Street Temple; it was organized on February 6, 1874]
Sabbath School Teachers' Class

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[1] Excerpted from reports in the volumes of the *AJYB*, and from other sources.

Eoff Street Temple Jewish Literature Class
Eoff Street Temple Bible Class
Eoff Street Temple Post-Confirmation Class
Eoff Street Temple Alumni Association

1900–1901

(*AJYB*, 1900–1901 [5661 A.M.], Volume 2, page 485)

WHEELING

Leshem Shomayim Congregation, at 12th and Eoff Streets

Founded on November 12, 1849
Harry Levi the rabbi in 1900–1901

OFFICERS IN 1900–1901
PRESIDENT: Samuel Kraft
VICE PRESIDENT: Joseph Emsheimer

TRUSTEES (besides the president and vice president):

Henry Baer
Lee Baer
Bernard Horkheimer
Lewis Horkheimer
Ralph Kline

A board meeting of the Board of Trustees is held every month
107 members of the congregation in 1900–1901
Religious services on Friday at 8.00 P.M., and on Saturday at 10.30 A.M.
Religious School on Saturday, at 9.30 A.M., and on Sunday, at 9.30 A.M.
75 pupils in the Religious School
The congregation collects and dispenses a relief fund

Auxiliary Societies [of Congregation Leshem Shomayim] (1900–1901):

Sabbath School Teachers' Class
Eoff Street Temple Jewish Literary Class (Miss Millie Stein, secretary)
Eoff Street Temple Bible Class

Eoff Street Temple Post-Confirmation Class
Eoff Street Temple Alumni Association (Miss Irma Kraft, president)
Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society [of the Eoff Street Temple] Founded in 1865[1]

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1900–1901

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Henry Speyer
VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Bernhard [Bernard] Horkheimer
TREASURER: Mrs. Henry Baer
SECRETARY: Mrs. Morris Jacobson

63 members in 1900–1901
$189 income [receipts] in the last fiscal year
The organization meets on the first Friday of the month [in the afternoon].

The Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, associated with the Eoff Street Temple (Congregation Leshem Shomayim, as the auxiliary society of the latter), was organized in the year 1865 [on February 6, 1874?], as the first Jewish women's group in the entire State of West Virginia. It was organized for, and devoted to, the purpose of the giving and doing of charity in the Jewish community of the city. Later, the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society was converted into the Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood. It affiliated with the United Hebrew Charities of Wheeling, and, still later, when the Federated Jewish Charities was formed in Wheeling, it remained a component body of that organization.

Directly as the result of the considerable financial aid rendered to the congregation by the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society for the 27-year period from 1865 to 1892, the new [the first actual] Temple building at 1214 Eoff Street, which locality later became part of the heart of the downtown business section of Wheeling, was erected, and was dedicated in 1892. As the result of its location on this street, the congregation came to be called, familiarly and more easily, by the name of the Eoff

[1] The date 1865 is, in all probability, incorrect. In Volume 9 of the *AJYB*, for 1907–1908, the date of its organization or founding is given as February 6, 1874.

Street Temple. This Eoff Street Temple building served the congregation for the 65-year period from 1892 to 1957, when Congregation Leshem Shomayim erected a new synagogue, the Woodsdale Temple, in a different, newer part of the city.

Ladies' Whist Club

Meets every Wednesday evening

Mercantile Club [a social club]

Founded on February 15, 1895[1]

Officers in 1900–1901

President: E. Buckman
Vice President: A. [Albert?] M. Rice
Treasurer: B. Hanauer
Secretary: Leon B. Stein, of 1300 Main Street
Directors

E. Buckman
L. S. Good
E. Hanauer
B. [Bernard] Horkheimer
M. [Morris] Horkheimer
D. Kraus
A. [Albert?] M. Rice
L. Sonneborn
Leon B. Stein

44 members in 1900–1901

The organization meets on the first Sunday of each month.

The Rabbi [Isaac Mayer] Wise Personal Aid Guild

Founded on March 10, 1900

Officers for the Year 1900–1901

President: Miss Jennie Reich
Vice President: Miss Carrie May Baer
Treasurer: Miss Freda Jacobs
Secretary: Miss Hattie Reed

30 members in 1900–1901

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[1] A later volume of the *AJYB* stated that this Mercantile Club was founded in 1889.

The Rabbi [Isaac Mayer] Wise Ward in the City Hospital

In 1905, a Rabbi [Isaac Mayer] Wise Ward in the only hospital in the city of Wheeling was furnished by the Jewish women of the city.

1907–1908

(*AJYB*, 1907–1908 [5668 A.M.], Volume 9, page 425)

Directory of the Jewish Local Organizations in the United States, Section on Wheeling, West Virginia

Estimated Jewish population of the city in 1907–1908: 550

Congregation Leshem Shomayim

Located on Eoff Street between 12th and 13th Streets [1214 Eoff Street]

Organized on February 18, 1849[1]

Rabbi: Harry Levi, of 1131 Eoff Street
President: Samuel Kraft, of 926 Main Street
Treasurer: Philip Hanauer, of 95 14th Street
Secretary: Joseph Raduziner, of 1103 Main Street

130 members Annual income, $5,000

Services, on the Sabbath and holidays, evening and morning, in Hebrew and English

The congregation is a member of the U. A. H. C.

School: 6 classes 6 teachers 80 pupils 1 session weekly

Auxiliary Societies

Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society
Relief Fund of the Eoff Street Temple

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[1] This is, in all likelihood, the correct date for the founding of the congregation, although elsewhere in the records the year 1856 is mentioned as the date of its founding, and also the date of November 12, 1849, is given and found, as above for the year 1899–1900 and for the year 1900–1901. In 1949, the congregation, at any rate, celebrated the centennial of its founding. In addition, the date 1850 is found in some of the early records as the year of the founding of the congregation.

Organized in 1875
90 members Annual income, $450

Charities

Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, of the Eoff Street Temple
Organized on February 6, 1874[1]

President: Mrs. Leo [Claudia] Wolf, of 1066 Chapline Street
Treasurer: Mrs. Leon B. Stein, of 1062 Chapline Street
Secretary: Mrs. Joseph Mayer, of 101 South Penn
78 members in 1907–1908 Annual income, $234

United Hebrew Charities of Wheeling

Organized on May 1, 1900
President: Rabbi Harry Levi, of 1131 Eoff Street
Treasurer: Mrs. Leon B. Stein, of 1062 Chapline Street
Secretary: Joseph Raduziner, of 1103 Main Street
175 members Annual income, $975[2]

Social Club

The Mercantile Club, of 1126 Main Street
Organized in 1889[3]

President: Louis Swabacher
Treasurer: Philip Hanauer
Secretary: Charles S. Schlesinger
58 members Annual income, $1,500

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[1] The date of 1865, given elsewhere in the congregational records for the founding of the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, of the Eoff Street Temple, is, in all probability, erroneous and premature.

[2] The 175 total membership apparently included both men and women members who paid dues and were full participants, and did not mean just the men, or families.

In later years, the Federated Jewish Charities, of Wheeling, was formed to replace and to amplify the work of the United Hebrew Charities of Wheeling. Sometimes, in the records, the later organization is called by the name of the Associated Jewish Charities.

[3] A previous volume of the *AJYB*, cited above, gives the conflicting date of February 15, 1895, for its organization.

Cemetery

The Mount Wood Cemetery, on the National Pike
Incorporated on June 30, 1890
The Mount Wood Cemetery is owned by the Hebrew Cemetery Association of the Eoff Street Temple, of Wheeling [Congregation Leshem Shomayim]

B'nai B'rith Lodge

In 1907–1908 there was in existence, in Wheeling, also a B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 615. The year of its organization is not listed. Joseph Raduziner was its secretary in that year.

Jewish Chautauqua Society

There were also in existence in Wheeling, in 1907–1908, two branches of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, which had been founded in 1893 by Rabbi Henry Berkowitz, of Philadelphia. In those earlier days the Jewish Chautauqua Society was strictly a Jewish cultural and adult educational organization, intended for Jews alone, "for the dissemination of knowledge of the Jewish religion," functions differing very widely from those which it espoused in later years.

Fannie Baer was the secretary of one of these J. C. S. branches in Wheeling in 1907–1908, and Mrs. Leo [Claudia] Wolf was secretary of the other branch.

In 1907–1908, both the United Hebrew Charities of Wheeling and Congregation Leshem Shomayim were affiliated with the National Conference of Jewish Charities.

1913–1914

The New Club was formed in 1913–1914 [5674 A.M.], with Dr. Wineburger as its secretary.[1]

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[1] Dr. Wineburger's first name appears to have been totally forgotten; it is not found in any of the records of the community. Many years before 1957, he left Wheeling, and moved to New York City, where he was reported to be living at the Hotel Ansonia.

Ohev Sholom Congregation (sometimes spelled as Oheb Sholom Congregation) was founded in the year 1913–1914 [5674 A.M.], at 1138 Main Street, in the business section of the city. Its first secretary, who was elected in 1913, and who served in this office for one year, from 1913 to 1914, was Isaac Marcus, and its first rabbi was Isaac Cooper. Isaac Cooper had come to Wheeling as rabbi in that same year 1913, from Jersey City, N. J., where his previous congregation had been. The first president of Congregation Ohev Sholom was Aaron Marcus. Aaron Marcus, the father of Isaac Marcus and of Professor Jacob R. Marcus of the H. U. C. - J. I. R. of Cincinnati, was also one of the founders of the new religious organization, which was and still remains thoroughly Orthodox. In a later volume of the *AJYB*, Volume 21, for the year 1919–1920 [5680 A.M.], the date of the organizing of Congregation Ohev Sholom is, no doubt erroneously, given as 1912.

Aaron Marcus, the father of the former Wheeling residents and brothers Isaac Marcus and Jacob R. Marcus, was a merchant who lived with his family in Wheeling from 1909 to 1915. Later the entire Marcus family moved to Farmington, W. Va., where its members lived from 1915 to 1927. They then transferred their residence to Pittsburgh, Pa., where several members of the Marcus family were still living in 1958–1959, including Aaron Marcus' widow, Mrs. Jennie Rader Marcus, and two brothers and the sister (Ethel Marcus) of Dr. Jacob R. Marcus. These two brothers, Isaac Marcus and his younger brother, Frank Marcus, operated a men's clothing store in Pittsburgh at that time. More biographical data on the Aaron Marcus family are presented below. Aaron Marcus served as president of the new [Orthodox] Congregation Ohev Sholom for two years, from 1913 to 1915, at which time he gave up the position and moved to Farmington, W. Va.

1915–1916

(*AJYB*, 1915–1916 [5676 A.M.], Volume 17, page 339)

In the year 1915–1916 [5676 A.M.], the Young Men's Hebrew Association was organized at Wheeling. Samuel Orenstein [more

accurately, Ornstein] served as its first secretary. It was listed as an educational society. Its headquarters were recorded as at the People's Bank. Samuel Orenstein's [Ornstein's] address was given as 1109 Main Street.

1919–1920

(*AJYB*, 1919–1920 [5680 A.M.], Volume 21, page 579)

The Jewish population of Wheeling: about 1,000 (estimated)[1]

LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN WHEELING

[CONGREGATIONS]

Congregation Leshem Shomayim (Reform)
Located on Eoff Street [1214 Eoff Street]
RABBI: Louis A. Mischkind, of 808 Main Street
Organized in 1850[2]

PRESIDENT: M. [Moses] Sonneborn
SECRETARY: Sam [Samuel] Ornstein[3]

Membership: 110 [families, or individual men]
Annual income: $4,200
School of the Congregation:
14 classes 16 teachers 185 pupils 1 weekly session

Auxiliary Societies:
The Temple Sisterhood
The Temple Guild[4]

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[1] This is an estimate which is considerably too high. A more sober estimate of the Jewish population of Wheeling in 1919–1920 would be between 650 and 700 Jews.

[2] This date is, as above mentioned, slightly inaccurate. It should be 1849, according to many of the earlier records of the congregation and of the earlier volumes of the *AJYB*, e. g., 1899–1900 and 1900–1901.

[3] A name often spelled, or misspelled, also as Orenstein. Ornstein would appear to be correct.

[4] By the year 1919–1920, apparently, the name of the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, of the Eoff Street Temple, had been changed to the Temple Sisterhood, or the Wheeling Sisterhood, or the Temple Sisterhood of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, as it was known until 1957–1958. Thereafter, it was called the Woodsdale Temple Sisterhood, or the Sisterhood of Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

Congregation Ohav Sholem [Ohev Sholom Congregation] (Orthodox)
Located at 1433 South Street
Organized in 1912[1]

Rabbi, Albert Reznick
President: B. I. Fain
Secretary: Joseph Kriegman
Superintendent: Henry E. Front[2]

Membership: 46 [families]
Services: on the Sabbath only (not daily), in Hebrew and Yiddish.[3]
School of Ohev Sholom [Ohav Sholem] Congregation:
3 classes and 1 teacher [Hebrew School and Sunday School combined]
23 pupils 6 sessions weekly [on weekdays and Sunday]

Educational

Young Men's Hebrew Association
Located at 12th and Chapline Streets [the Y. M. H. A. Building]
Organized in 1916 [1915–1916]

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[1] The previous date given for its organization was 1913–1914, as carried in the *AJYB* for 1913–1914, or 5674 A.M., Volume 15. Isaac Marcus, also, in his correspondence, gave the year 1913 for the founding of Ohev Sholom Congregation, of which he was the first secretary, serving from 1913 to 1914.

[2] Here the word "Superintendent" unquestionably means "janitor," "sexton," or "Shammash." Descendants of the Front family were still living in Wheeling in 1958–1959, and one of the descendants of Henry E. Front, a grandson of the "superintendent" of 1919–1920, was Rabbi Henri E. Front, who in 1958–1959 was rabbi of Temple Menorah, of 112 North Catalina, in Redondo Beach, Calif. Also, the late Marc Leon Front, son of Jacques Front, of Wheeling, and a cousin of Rabbi Henri E. Front, was a native of Wheeling before his removal to Beckley, W. Va., where he died in December, 1952. The Front family members were of French origin.

[3] Services were undoubtedly held also on the holidays and on the High Holy Days of each year. Since the congregation was altogether Orthodox, and the services were exclusively in Hebrew, the "Yiddish" above must mean that sermons were delivered by the rabbi in Yiddish at the services of Ohev Sholom Congregation.

President: Eugene F. Baer
Secretary: Ben F. Baer
Director: Rabbi Louis A. Mischkind
Membership: 120 members
Annual income, $2,000

Charitable

Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, of Temple Leshem Shomayim
President: Mrs. Leo [Claudia] Wolf
Secretary: Mrs. Louis [Lewis] Horkheimer, of Kenwood Place
120 members Annual income, $1,500

United Hebrew Charities of Wheeling
Located in the Y. M. H. A. Building
President: M. [Moses] Sonneborn
Secretary: C. H. Jacobs
Superintendent: Eugene M. [F.] Baer
100 members Annual income, $1,000

Affiliated Societies
Temple Leshem Shomayim
The Sisterhood of Temple Leshem Shomayim
The Young Men's Hebrew Association

Cemetery

The Mount Wood Cemetery, located on the National Pike
Incorporation date: June 30, 1890
Owned by the Hebrew Cemetery Association of Temple Leshem Shomayim

1927–1928

(*AJYB*, 1927–1928 [5688 A.M.], Volume 29)

Wheeling

Associated [Federated] Jewish Charities of Wheeling
Location: 12th and Chapline Streets

DIRECTOR: Herbert O. Baer
500 members[1]
Annual income, $5,000[2]

1932

The Jewish Central Committee was organized in Wheeling in 1932.[3] It was converted, in 1939, into the Jewish Community Council. Subsequent items or notations dealing with the Jewish Central Committee and with the later Jewish Community Council, which replaced it, are given in chronological order immediately below, in this section.

1936–1937

(*AJYB*, 1936–1937 [5697 A.M.], Volume 38)

In 1936–1937, in Volume 38 of the *AJYB*, for the year 5697 A.M., in the List of Federations and Welfare Funds, throughout the United States, there is listed, on page 534, the

Federated Jewish Charities of Wheeling
It was the only one in the State listed in that year
Organized in 1925, but not incorporated
Location: at 12th and Chapline Streets
H. [Herbert] O. Baer was its director
At that time, Wheeling was stated to have a Jewish population of 750.

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[1] Undoubtedly, inclusive of both men and women, and not meaning 500 families.

[2] This Associated Jewish Charities is mentioned for the first time, apparently, in the *AJYB* for 1927–1928, Volume 29, for the Jewish year 5688 A.M., on page 217. Later, it came to be known as the Federated Jewish Charities of Wheeling. At the time of its first mention in the *AJYB* for 1927–1928, it was the only federated Jewish charities, or association of Jews for charitable purposes, in the entire State of West Virginia.

The Federated Jewish Charities of Wheeling, formed in 1925, replaced and amplified the work and functions of the United Hebrew Charities of Wheeling, which was organized on May 1, 1900. By 1936–1937, in Volume 38 of the *AJYB*, for the Jewish calendar year 5697 A.M., the Federated Jewish Charities of Wheeling was already listed as an unincorporated organization under that newer title.

[3] According to other sources, it was founded in 1933.

1937–1938

(*AJYB*, 1937–1938 [5698 A.M.], Volume 39, page 721)

The Federated Jewish Charities of Wheeling was declared to be primarily a family welfare agency. Its director was again H. [Herbert] O. Baer in this year, and its location was at 16th and Main Streets. It was affiliated with the general Wheeling Community Chest. Its expenditures in 1936 were $2,000.

The Jewish Central Committee

CHAIRMAN: Sigmund J. Front

SECRETARY: Ralph L. Miller

The Jewish Central Committee conducts the annual campaign, in Wheeling, for non-local [Jewish] causes.[1]

1938–1939

The Jewish Central Committee

Its offices were located in the Board of Trade Building

Organized in 1933, as stated at this time [not in 1932], for the purpose of supplementing the work and scope of the Federated Jewish Charities of Wheeling

PRESIDENT in 1938–1939: Ernest S. Horkheimer

SECRETARY: Ralph L. Miller

1939–1940

(*AJYB*, 1939–1940 [5700 A.M.], page 557)

There existed in Wheeling, in the year 1939–1940, the following three federations and welfare funds; at least two of them, and possibly all three, were closely allied for work and functions. These were:

The Jewish Central Committee

Converted in that same year into the Jewish Community Council, which was still in existence in 1957–1958.

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[1] This was the first time, and the first year, that the Jewish Central Committee was listed in the *AJYB*.

Organized in 1933 [1932]
Located in the Board of Trade Building
Purposes: the coordination and support of local [Jewish] social services, and the support of overseas welfare programs
PRESIDENT in 1939–1940: Ernest S. Horkheimer
SECRETARY: Ralph L. Miller

The Federated Jewish Charities [of Wheeling]
Located at 16th and Main Streets

The Coordinating Committee for German Refugees
CHAIRMAN: Sigmund S. [J.] Front
SECRETARY: William Combs

The Coordinating Committee for German Refugees was organized by the Wheeling Jewish Community, apparently in the year 1938–1939, and remained in existence for several years, until at least the year 1946–1947, before, during, and after the end of the Second World War. After 1947, seemingly, it went out of existence as being no longer needed, and as having fulfilled the functions for which it was organized. After 1946–1947, it is not mentioned further in the records and reports found in the *AJYB*.

1941–1942

The Jewish Community Council (including Moundsville, W. Va.)

Organized in 1933

In 1941–1942, apparently for the first time, its work and functions included the handful of Jewish families living in Moundsville, W. Va., located in Marshall County, on the Ohio River, 12 miles south of Wheeling.

Purposes: the coordination and support of local Jewish social services, the support of national welfare programs of Jewish interest, and the support of Jewish overseas welfare programs.

PRESIDENT in 1941–1942: John Wiseman
SECRETARY: Sam Crone

1943–1944

(*AJYB*, 1943–1944 [5704 A.M.], page 551)

Jewish Community Council (including Moundsville, W. Va.)
PRESIDENT: D. Milton Gutman
SECRETARY: Ernest [S.] Horkheimer, Riley Law Building

Coordinating Committee for German Refugees
Still in existence in 1943–1944 [founded in 1938–1939]
CO-CHAIRMEN: E. [Ernest] S. Horkheimer and Mrs. H. [Herbert] O. Baer

Federated Jewish Charities [of Wheeling], 1525 Market Street
DIRECTORS: E. [Ernest] S. Horkheimer and Nate [Nathan] Harrison[1]

1946–1947

(*AJYB*, 1946–1947, Volume 48 [5707 A.M.], page 591)

Jewish Community Council (including Moundsville, W. Va.)

Organized in 1933
PRESIDENT in 1946–1947: Sam Posin
SECRETARY: Mrs. Seymour Shaw

Coordinating Committee for German Refugees
CO-CHAIRMEN in 1946–1947: E. [Ernest] S. Horkheimer
Mrs. H. [Herbert] O. Baer[2]

Federated Jewish Charities [of Wheeling], 1525 Market Street
DIRECTORS in 1946–1947: Ernest S. Horkheimer
Nate [Nathan] Harrison

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[1] Nate, or Nathan, Harrison was, for many years, in the 1940's and 1950's, in addition, an ardent worker, on the local and State levels, in the B'nai B'rith, and for years he served as co-chairman of the Hillel Foundation Committee (West Virginia University, at Morgantown) of the West Virginia Council of the B'nai B'rith. He was still actively engaged in this work in 1957–1958, although advanced in age, in cooperation with Lawrence M. Brile, of Fairmont, W. Va., who at the end of February, 1958, left Fairmont and settled in Brooklyn, N. Y.

[2] The Coordinating Committee for German Refugees apparently ceased its functions and its existence in Wheeling after the year 1947.

1947–1948

(*AJYB*, 1947–1948, Volume 49 [5708 A.M.], page 709)

Jewish Community Council (including Moundsville, W. Va.)

Organized in 1933

PRESIDENT in 1947–1948: John Wiseman
RECREATIONAL SECRETARY: Meyer Franklin, 22 Lenox Avenue

1948–1951

(*AJYB*, 1948–1949 [5709 A.M.], Volume 50, page 626)
(*AJYB*, 1950 [5710 A.M.], Volume 51, page 490)

Federated Jewish Charities (of Wheeling)
PRESIDIUM [Presiding Board] in 1950:
Sam Good
Max [L.] Horne
H. S. Levin

RECREATIONAL SECRETARY: Meyer Franklin, 22 Lenox Avenue

(*AJYB*, 1951, Volume 52, page 482)

Jewish Community Council, of Wheeling (including Moundsville)
CHAIRMAN in 1950 and 1951: Max L. Horne
SECRETARY: Mrs. Saul Enelow, of Howard Place

1952

(*AJYB*, 1952, Volume 53, page 504)

Jewish Community Council (including Moundsville)
CHAIRMAN: Max L. Horne

1953

(*AJYB*, 1953, Volume 54, page 519)

Jewish Community Council, of Wheeling (including Moundsville)
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Arthur Gross, 3 Locust Avenue

1954 and 1955

(*AJYB*, Volume 55 [1954], page 434; Volume 56 [1955], page 550)

Jewish Community Council, of Wheeling (including Moundsville)
PRESIDENT: John Wiseman
SECRETARY: Arthur Gross, 3 Locust Avenue

1955–1956

(*AJYB*, Volume 57 [1956], page 586)

Jewish Community Council, of Wheeling (including Moundsville)
PRESIDENT: John Wiseman
TREASURER: David S. Goldberg, Laconia Building

1956–1958

(*AJYB*, 1957, Volume 58, page 455; Volume 59 [1958], page 454)

Jewish Community Council, of Wheeling (including Moundsville, W. Va.)
Organized in 1933
PRESIDENT in 1956–1957: John Wiseman
TREASURER in 1956–1958: Isadore Rubinstein, 30 Poplar Avenue

In 1957, the Jewish Community Council, of Wheeling, was still an agency of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

The Jewish population of Wheeling in 1957 was estimated at 800.

1957–1958

In 1957–1958, the Wheeling Jewish Community had the following twelve active Jewish associations, groups, organizations, and congregations, which functioned and met regularly:

Congregation Leshem Shomayim (the Woodsdale Temple)
The Woodsdale Temple Sisterhood (the Wheeling Sisterhood, or the Sisterhood of Congregation Leshem [L'shem] Shomayim]
The Woodsdale Temple Youth Group
The Synagogue of Israel (Conservative)
B'nai Israel Congregation (Orthodox)
Ohev Sholom [Ohav Sholem] Congregation (Orthodox)
B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 615 (affiliated with D. G. L., No. 3)
a chapter of the Senior Hadassah
a chapter of the Junior Hadassah
a Zionist Organization (the local and district Zionist group)
Federated Jewish Charities, of Wheeling
Jewish Community Council, of Wheeling

In 1957–1958, the estimated Jewish population of Wheeling was between 800 and 850.

Three Jewish cemeteries are maintained by the Jewish community of Wheeling.

1959–1960

In 1959–1960, Isadore Rubinstein, of 30 Poplar Avenue, served as the treasurer of the Jewish Community Council of Wheeling, founded in 1933 and including the nearby Jewish community of Moundsville, W. Va.

The History of Congregation Leshem [L'shem] Shomayim

Originally known (from 1849 to 1892) as Congregation Leshem Shomayim, or Congregation for the Sake of Heaven, the Reform Jewish congregation of Wheeling was known from 1892 to 1956 by the names of Congregation Leshem (L'shem) Shomayim and the Eoff Street Temple. From 1956–1957 on, it has been known as the Woodsdale Temple.

High Holy Day services were held in Wheeling for the first time, apparently, in the fall of the year 1846. There is no record of the holding of any religious services in Wheeling, either for

the Sabbath, or daily, or for the High Holy Days, before that year. However, there is a probability that occasional Minyans (religious services with a minimum quota of ten men, or of ten Jewish adults, present) were held in Wheeling before the year 1849.

At any rate, organized religious services and worship began to be held in Wheeling, perhaps in 1849, by the first Jewish organization in either Wheeling or in the entire State of what is now West Virginia (then a part of Virginia); this was a (Jewish) Cemetery Association, which was organized in 1849. Also founded in that same year 1849 was Congregation Leshem Shomayim (Congregation for the Sake of Heaven, as it was uniquely and quaintly called in English in the records), the first Jewish congregation in what is now West Virginia. The date of its founding is variously given in the surviving records as either February 18, 1849 (*AJYB*, Volume 9, 5668 A.M. [1907–1908]), or November 12, 1849. The date of 1856 is also given elsewhere for the organizing of this congregation and synagogue, but the last-mentioned date is generally regarded as erroneous. In later years, after its first actual synagogue was built and dedicated, in 1892, at 1214 Eoff Street, Congregation Leshem Shomayim came to be called, popularly, and much more simply, the Eoff Street Temple.

From 1849 on, after the organizing of the Cemetery Association and, shortly thereafter, the Congregation, religious services began to be held; Rabbi Meyer Mannheim, who was, apparently, the first rabbi who found his way into Wheeling, as well as various other members of the Cemetery Association, would conduct these services. Their first meeting place (the date of its first use is no longer known) for religious worship was in a room in a private [Jewish] residence on 14th and Main Streets. The Cemetery Association later purchased the Mount Wood Cemetery, on the National Pike, which was thereafter the cemetery of Congregation Leshem Shomayim. It is of interest that the cemetery in Wheeling was acquired by the Jewish group several months before it became an organized congregation. Rabbi Meyer Mannheim, who may have served the Wheeling congregation for as long as the three-year period

from 1849 to 1852, was the first person to be buried in this cemetery, having died in Wheeling apparently in the course of his service. The Mount Wood Cemetery was not incorporated until more than forty years after it was bought, i. e., on June 30, 1890; in the official records it is stated that it was "owned by the Hebrew Cemetery Association of the Eoff Street Temple of Wheeling." In all likelihood, Meyer Mannheim served as the Chazan and rabbi of the congregation, possibly also as its Shochet, for in the 19th century one religious functionary often served small congregations in two or even three such religious capacities in the United States.

As mentioned above, the undoubtedly erroneous date of 1856 is found in some of the records, and notably in the *American Israelite*, as the date of the founding of the congregation. In the *American Israelite* for November 23, 1916 (page 1), there is a notation to the effect that the Temple in Wheeling (the first actual synagogue building erected and owned by Congregation Leshem Shomayim) was dedicated on April 8, 1892. (This was the Eoff Street Temple.)

The name of the congregation, Congregation Leshem Shomayim (later spelled also as L'Shem Shomayim or L'shem Shomayim Congregation), was adopted in early 1849, only shortly after the formation of the Cemetery Association. Its name in English translation was, from the first, Congregation for the Sake of Heaven, a name which apparently does not occur elsewhere among any of the Jewish congregations of the United States or of both American continents ever since the beginning of Jewish settlement in the Western Hemisphere, although names like Gate or Gates of Heaven for Jewish congregations are quite frequent. In the years 1852 and 1853 the congregation (after the death of Meyer Mannheim) had neither a Chazan nor a Shochet, nor a man to serve in both capacities, as was quite usual in those days in various parts of the United States. In 1854, a man by the name of Joel Eppinger came to the congregation, most presumably from Cincinnati, and functioned as Chazan, Shochet, and religious school teacher, perhaps for the two-year period from 1854 to 1856. In 1856, a man named Weil, whose first name has, apparently, been irretrievably lost,

but which may have, nonetheless, been I. or Isaac Weil, was elected minister or rabbi of the congregation. Weil may have served as rabbi until 1859.

Rabbis of Congregation Leshem Shomayim who succeeded Meyer Mannheim, Joel Eppinger, and Weil were: Isaac Strouse (spelled also as Strauss or as Strause; his correct name was, in all likelihood, Strouse), Fult (B. L. Fould?), S. Kuttenauer, Schwed [Isaac Schwab?], A. L. Meyer (or Mayer), Jacob Theodor Vogelsdorff (or spelled with one *f* at the end), I. (Isaac) N. Saenger, and Morris Sessler; these several men served the congregation from 1859 to the very beginning of December, 1887.

Originally, Congregation Leshem Shomayim was totally Orthodox, adhering to the traditional Orthodox ritual or prayer services (Minhag) and to strictly Orthodox practices. This strict Orthodox period lasted from 1849 to 1865; during the rabbinate of S. Kuttenauer, apparently, which extended from 1865 to 1872, reforms or innovations (changes) of various kinds began to be made in the ritual and ceremonies of the congregation, as practised in its temporary synagogue rooms.

So far as can be gathered from the earliest (and incomplete) records of the congregation, the complete list of the eleven men who served the congregation as rabbis, Chazanim, Shochetim and/or teachers, in one, or more than one, or all of these capacities and functions, in the earlier years extending from 1849 to 1887, is as follows:

Meyer Mannheim (1849–1852?)
Joel Eppinger (1854–1856?)
— Weil (1856–1859?) [I. or Isaac Weil?]
Isaac Strouse (also Strauss or Strause) (1859–1862)
— Fult [Fuld; B. L. Fould] (1862–1865?)
S. Kuttenauer (1865–1872)
— Schwed (Isaac Schwab?) (1872?)
A. L. Meyer (also Mayer) (Alexander Mayer?) (1876–1879)
Jacob Theodore Vogelsdorf (August, 1879, to January 1, 1880)
I. [Isaac? Israel?] N. Saenger (April 1 to August 9, 1880)
Morris Sessler (November 1, 1880, to December 1, 1887)

The Minute Books, or official secretarial records, of Congregation Leshem Shomayim in Wheeling go back to April 15, 1849, when the first minutes of the newly formed congregation were written, in German, by Marx Graf, the first president of the new congregation, and by Salomon Hoffheimer, the first vice president of the new congregation, as well as by Samuel Schiele, its first secretary. Most of the names of the earliest members of the congregation are certainly of German origin, like the three names Graf, Hoffheimer, and Schiele mentioned above, and this is an indication that the great majority of the original members of the new congregation were German Jews.

German continued to be used as the language of the official congregational minute books until the meeting of January 5, 1872 (i. e., for slightly less than 23 years), at which time English suddenly began to be used as the language of the congregational minutes, without any motion or decision of the congregation to this effect being recorded in the official records.

In 1850, Salomon Hoffheimer (spelled also as Hofheimer) was elected secretary of the congregation, and Adolph Ballenberg became its second president, succeeding Marx Graf, who had served for only one year in the office of president. Salomon Hoffheimer apparently served as unofficial secretary or assistant secretary from 1849 to 1850; in 1850 he was elected as the official second secretary of the congregation, succeeding Samuel Schiele. He served in this capacity until 1851.

In 1851, Simon Segal became the secretary, and Salomon J. Bloch (often mentioned in the minutes simply as S. J. Bloch) was elected president. In that year L. Reinstein [perhaps a misspelling of the original name of L. (Lazarus) Rheinstrom] donated a silk cover to the Temple [private-room synagogue] for the Torah. The provenance of the Sefer Torah of the congregation is unknown, nor is it mentioned in the records, apparently; it may possibly have come from Cincinnati.

In 1852, Adolph Ballenberg was elected secretary of the congregation. In the following year (1853), Julius Ballenberg (presumably his brother) was elected president, and Max Moss was elected secretary. Adolph Ballenberg was elected to the office of treasurer of the congregation in 1853.

On the eve of Rosh Hashanah (New Year), October 2, 1853, and on October 9, 1853, the list of the

Members of the Congregation Leshem Shomayim[1]

included the following 31 men or business firms (two of whom are not mentioned by name) (in the official minutes their names are not given in alphabetical order):

Aub & Forchheimer
A. Baer and brother
Adolph Ballenberg
Julius Ballenberg
Salomon J. Bloch
Isaac Faller
I. Goodman
C. Hess[2]
Aaron Heyman
Alex [Alexander] Heyman
Meyer Heyman
Samuel Klein
— Meyers (his first name is not recorded)
Max Moss
Isaac Ochs
I. Oppenheimer
Sigmund Oppenheimer
L. [Lazarus] Rheinstrom
Meyer Rheinstrom
Simon Segal
— Seligman[3]
S. Seligman and brother
William Sondheimer
Stein & Brother
Levi Stein
S. Steinfeld
H. Weiler
Wiesenfeld & Co.
W. Wolfsheimer

An additional member of the congregation, listed as such in 1854, was Simon Horkheimer, apparently the first member of the later numerous and noteworthy Horkheimer family to settle in Wheeling, and to play an important role in the history of Congregation Leshem Shomayim and of the entire community of Wheeling. Meyer Heyman and Lazarus (previously mentioned simply as L.) Rheinstrom are also listed in 1854 as new

[1] Not a complete membership list, however.

[2] C. Hess is listed in the records as a Kohen, i. e., of priestly descent. This notation was apparently made for use in the calling up of men for the Reading of the Torah at the Sabbath and Holy Day morning services.

In addition, the ministrations of the Kohanim, or Jews of priestly descent, were utilized for the "Duchenen" (*duchan*), or the pronouncing of the Priestly Blessing.

[3] A peddler; his first name is not found in the records, and he was, apparently, not related to S. Seligman.

members, but their names are to be found in the 1853 membership list.

The name of Joel Eppinger was recorded in the minute books as of March 19, 1854, as the Chazan, Shochet, and "Lehrer" (the German word for "teacher") of the congregation. He came to the congregation from Cincinnati in the early part of 1854. A charge of 50 cents was made for each pupil.[1]

Also, in 1854, Max Moss became the secretary of the congregation.

In 1854, presumably for the year 1854–1855, the officers of the congregation were as follows:

PRESIDENT: Julius Ballenberg
SECRETARY: Max Moss
TREASURER: Adolph Ballenberg

In 1855, Isaac Ochs was elected secretary of the congregation, and Julius Ballenberg was still serving as president in that year. In April, 1855, Salomon J. Bloch was elected the congregational treasurer.

For all the years from 1850 (1849) to 1892, when it built and dedicated (on April 8, 1892) its first synagogue (that located at 1214 Eoff Street until 1956), the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim met for religious services and other group functions in rented rooms, or in private homes. These rooms were, in all likelihood, above stores in the then business section of the city. There is, in the early minutes, before the year 1860, a notation to the effect that in that particular year (unstated) the congregation rented its synagogal room for the sum of $50 a year.

In January, 1860, the Hebrew Congregation of Wheeling (this was not its official or proper name, but just a designation used by Isaac Leeser, editor of *The Occident*, for the name of the Wheeling congregation, whose real name he perhaps did not know, or had not been informed of), through its treasurer, M. [Meyer] Rheinstrom, made a donation of $24 for the relief

[1] Probably as the weekly fee for such instruction, although the exact term of the fee of 50¢ is not mentioned in the minute books.

of the Jewish refugees from Morocco who had taken shelter or refuge at Gibraltar, across the Mediterranean, as a result of the civil war which had broken out in Morocco in the previous year. A notation to this effect is made in Volume XVII of *The Occident*, in its then weekly issue of January 19, 1860, on the first of its two advertising pages. This, apparently, was the only donation to this cause made by Jews anywhere in West Virginia (or in what was a few years later to be called West Virginia).

Of unusual interest is the following, found in the minutes of the congregation, in German originally, under the date and place of:

"Wheeling, February 10, 1862.

"It was resolved at today's meeting that the undersigned obligate themselves to buy only kosher meat as soon as a Shochet comes here, and [that] all those who violate this regulation must pay a fine of five dollars."

[Signed] A. [Alex] Heyman
J. [Julius] Ballenberg
M. [Meyer] Rheinstrom

M. [Meyer] Heyman	A. Sonneborn
Simon Horkheimer	H. Rosenthal
David Levi	S. Schwabacher
Isaac Ochs	William Schwabacher

David Levi, H. Rosenthal, A. Sonneborn, S. Schwabacher, and William Schwabacher were, obviously, new members of the congregation and new Jewish residents in Wheeling, who had come to the city in the period between 1853 and 1862, had settled there, and joined the congregation.

New members who joined the congregation subsequent to 1857, and up through the year 1865, including Jacob Steinberg, who became a member in 1857, were:

(42 new members from 1857 through 1865)

— Baer (first name unknown)	Lewis Beekman
R. Baer	B. Blumlein
	D. Dillenberg

Meyer Eisenberg
— Eisemann (listed in the minutes as Mr. Eisemann)
A. Eppler
A. Fink (formerly of Pittsburgh)
L. Fried
Louis Gold
Simon Gold
H. Guggenheimer
J. Guggenheimer
Samuel Hanauer
Solomon [Salomon] Hanauer
G. A. Heyman
H. Hirshberg
S. Hirshberg
B. Holderman
H. Horkheimer
— Kaufman (first name unknown)
L. Kramer
Charles Kraus
Salomon Kraus
— Krauss (listed in the minutes as Mr. Krauss)
S. Lamm
David Levi
Lewis Nathan
H. Rosenheim
H. Rosenthal
I. [J.? Joseph?] Schwabacher
William Schwabacher
R. Shonfield and Brother
A. Sonneborn
A. Steinfeld
J. [Jacob] Steinfeld
Max Strassburger
Weil & Althof
J. Weil
S. Weil
Selig Weinberg

Presidents and Secretaries of the Congregation, from 1858 to 1868

Presidents	Secretaries
Julius Ballenberg (1858–1859)	Augustus Pollack (1858–1859)
Isaac Ochs (1859–1860)	David Levi (1859–1860)
Meyer Rheinstrom (1860–1862)	Isaac Strouse (1859–1860)[1]
Simon Horkheimer (1862–1863)	Simon Horkheimer (1860–1861)
Levi Stein (1863–1864)	Jacob Steinfeld (1861–1862)
	L. Fried (1862–1864)

[1] This was Rabbi Isaac Strouse, who, apparently, during one year of his three-year rabbinical service in Wheeling, served the congregation ("doubled up") also as its secretary. There is record that other congregations of the United States did the same thing in the 19th century.

Presidents	Secretaries
Simon Gold (1864–1865)	Jacob Steinfeld (1864–1865)
Lewis Beekman (1865–1866)	H. Rosenthal (1865) (part of a term)
Isaac Ochs (1866–1867)	Isaac Ochs (1865–1866)
Henry Jacobs (1867–1868)	H. Rosenthal (1866–1867)
	M. Emsheimer (1867–1868)

Officers, from 1868 to 1876

Presidents

Meyer Heyman (1868–1871)
Simon Horkheimer (1871–1872)
M. Emsheimer (1872–1875)
B. [Bernhard] Rosenstein (1876–1876)

Vice Presidents

S. Kline (1868–1869) [Samuel Klein][1]
B. [Bernhard] Rosenstein (1873–1874)
V. [Victor] Rosenberg (1874–1875)
E. [Emil] Emsheimer (1875–1876)

Secretaries

Henry Baer (1867–1869)
Louis Gold (1869–1870)
H. [Henry] Hartman (1870–1871)
E. [Emil] Emsheimer (1871–1872)
I. Blum (1872–1873)
I. [J.] [Jacob] Emsheimer (1873–1876)

Treasurers

H. [Henry] Hartman (1873–1875)[2]
H. [Henry] Jacobs (1875–1876)

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[1] The names of the vice presidents who served from 1869 to 1873 are not extant.

[2] Apparently, no names of congregational treasurers who served from 1868 to 1873 have survived, or were recorded.

In 1874, Congregation Leshem Shomayim became an affiliate of the U. A. H. C., which had been founded only the year previously by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, of Cincinnati. The exact date of its joining was May 8, 1874, obviously as a fully Reform congregation by that time. It was the second congregation in the entire State to do so, being preceded in this act only by the Charleston Congregation B'nai Israel (the Virginia Street Temple), which had joined the U. A. H. C. on October 5, 1873, in the very first year of the existence of the U. A. H. C. The process of Reform which had begun in the congregation in and after the year 1865 under Rabbi S. Kuttenauer was, obviously, complete by the year 1874, and Congregation Leshem Shomayim had ceased to be an Orthodox congregation. Conservative Judaism was not to be originated or conceived of for a little more than a decade yet to come.

Officers of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, from 1876 to 1880

Presidents

Bernard [Bernhard] Rosenstein (1876–1877)
A. [Albert] L. Rice (1877–1878)
Bernard [Bernhard] Rosenstein (1878–1880)

Vice Presidents

Samuel S. Bloch (1876–1877)
Max Baer (1877–1878)
Sam.[uel] Krause (1878–1880)

Secretaries

I. [J.] [Jacob] Emsheimer (1875–1876)
Isaac Blum, Jr. (1876–1877)
George A. Speyer (1877–1878)
B. Marks (1878–1880)

Treasurers

Henry Jacobs (1876–1877)
Simon Horkheimer (1877–1879)
James Speyer (1879–1880)

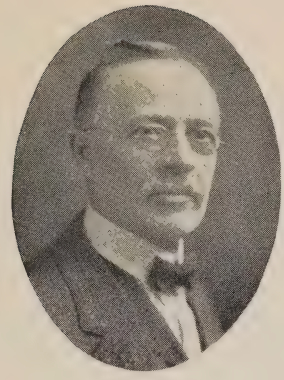
The first Constitution of Congregation Leshem Shomayim (or Kenesiyah Leshem Shomayim, as it was first called, by its fully Hebrew title, at the very beginning of its existence; it appears to have been called, also, in its earlier years of existence, by the name of Kenesiyah [Congregation] Ohel Jacob, or "Tent of Jacob") was adopted in 1865, the congregation obviously not having had any regular constitution before that. The preamble to this first Constitution of the congregation (couched in a quite faulty English strongly replete with Germanisms) read as follows:

"Kenesiyah Ohel Yaakob. When we consider that at all times and all over the world in favorable or unfavorable conditions our coreligionists through their untireing [*sic*!] efforts to maintain our holy instructive Mosaic Laws, our very Judaism, who sacrificed their homes and lives and everything dear to them in order to uphold the heritage of our forefathers.

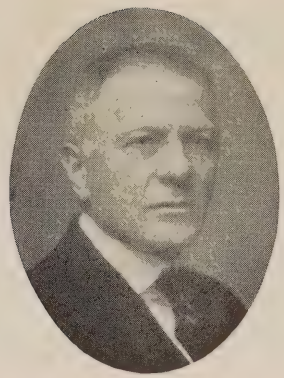
"It behoofs [*sic*!] every true Israelite to strive in doing likewise in [the] glorious country of the brave and free, where Church and State are forever separated and each individual can serve and worship God according [to] his own free will. Thus we members of Ohel Jacob Congregation of Wheeling, W. Va., County of Ohio, State of West Va. . . . "

According to this Constitutional Preamble, we learn, for the first time in the congregational minutes, that the original name of the congregation, at the time of its founding in 1849, was Ohel Jacob Congregation or Kenesiyah Ohel Jacob, and that then, later, its name was officially changed to Kenesiyah Leshem Shomayim, and then, still later, the word Kenesiyah was dropped, translated into English, and the name Congregation Leshem Shomayim was adopted and thereafter used for many years, until 1892, when the Temple was often referred to as the Eoff Street Temple, and for many years even after that. Still later, there was the tendency to spell the word Leshem as L'Shem or L'shem: Congregation L'Shem Shomayim or Congregation L'shem Shomayim; this tendency has prevailed until the present.

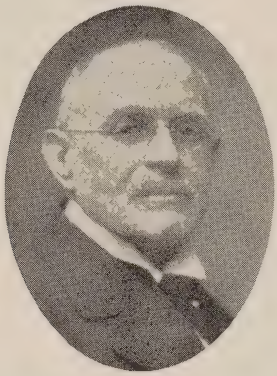
PLATE XXXVII



SIMON KLINE



LOUIS HORKHEIMER



SAMUEL KRAFT

LEON B. STEIN

LOUIS C. KRAFT

Trustees of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1917

(see page 1398)

SIGMUND S. FRONT, *President*

BARUCH BRAUNSTEIN, *Rabbi*

IRWIN H. BAER, *Vice President*

D. MILTON GUTMAN, *Treasurer*

BEN F. BAER, *Secretary*

New Members of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, from 1867 on[1]

(25 new members)

D. A. Adler
Benno Arnold
Simon Baer
Jacob I. Blum
S. Blum
M. Blumenthal
H. Cohen
Emil Emsheimer
Jacob Emsheimer
Joseph Emsheimer
Joseph Graves
David Gundling
William Hare [Harr?]
Henry Hartman
Henry Jacobs
Charles Kraus
Samuel Kraus
Solomon Kraus
David Levy
Nessbit & Brother
Victor Rosenberg
Bernhard Rosenstein
Shilin Schwabach [Schwabacher]
Abraham Sonneborn
T. Steinfeld

1876 to 1879

Seats were awarded in 1876 to 1879 for the High Holy Days to the following members of Congregation Leshem Shomayim:

(42 seats in 1876)[2]

B. Baer
Max Baer [Bear]
Simon Baer
Lewis Beekman
Mrs. Bloch (her first name is not recorded)[3]
Samuel S. Bloch
Jacob Blum
Mr. Blumenthal [M. Blumenthal?]
Herman Cohn
M. Eisenberg
Mr. Eisenberg (first name unknown)

---

[1] Some of these men had been listed as members in previous years. Evidently, therefore, they had dropped out of the congregation before 1867, and thus, when they rejoined, they were listed in the congregational minutes, or records, as new members.

[2] This is, obviously, not a complete list of the members who held seats in the three-year period from 1876 to 1879, but just a partial one.

[3] Mrs. Bloch was, possibly, the wife and widow of Salomon J. Bloch and the mother of Samuel S. Bloch. It is possible that Salomon J. Bloch and Samuel S. Bloch were father and son.

Joseph Eiseman
E. [Emil] Emsheimer
Jacob Emsheimer
Joseph Emsheimer, Sr.
M. Emsheimer
Joe [Joseph] Fox
William Frank
Louis Gold
Simon Gold
David Gundling
D. Gutman
E. Gutman
Samuel Hanauer
M. [Meyer] Heyman
Burnie [Bernard] Horkheimer
Maurice [Morris] Horkheimer
Simon Horkheimer
Henry Jacobs
Samuel Kline [Klein]
A. [Aaron] L. Kraft
Samuel Kraft
Charles Krauss [Kraus]
Sal. [Salomon] Kraus
Sol [Solomon] Krauss [Kraus]
B. Marks
D. [David] Pinkus
A. [Augustus] Pollack
S. Pollack
M. [Meyer] Rheinstrom
A. [Albert] L. Rice
V. [Victor] Rosenberg
Bernard [Bernhard] Rosenstein
Joseph Schwabacher
Mr. Shonefield (first name unknown)
A. [Abraham] Sonneborn
George Speyer
James Speyer
Joseph Steinfeld
Sh. Swabacker [originally, Shilin Schwabacher]
William Swabacker [originally, Schwabacher]
Mr. Vineberg [Selig Weinberg?]
M. Weiler

1876–1877

In 1876 to 1877, Jacob Blum and Joseph Emsheimer were the members of the Committee on Graveyard [the Cemetery Committee]. A. [Albert] L. Rice, Samuel Krauss, and James Speyer were added as members to the Board of Trustees.

The Reverend A. L. Meyer (spelled also as Mayer; his full first name is unknown, and is never given in the congregational records) was the minister of the congregation in December, 1876, at which time the trustees of the congregation passed two resolutions. The first requested "Dr. A. L. Meyer, minister, to give lectures in the synagogue on the second and fourth Sunday

of every month, during the winter season, until March, 1877." The second resolution stated that Dr. [A. L.] Meyer was to "be at the synagogue rooms every Saturday and Sunday morning for the purpose of giving religious instruction to the children present."

In February, 1877, Simon Gold and Louis Gold left Wheeling.

In June, 1877, the Reverend A. L. Meyer's salary was fixed at $1,000 per annum. In 1878, this was reduced to $800 per annum, and Dr. A. L. Mayer [Meyer] was to be re-elected preacher of the congregation at this reduced salary. However, the Reverend Mayer refused the reduced salary, and later his salary was ordered reduced to $500 per annum (in a successful attempt, apparently, to "get rid" of him or to induce him to resign), and he was notified that his term of office as minister and preacher would expire at the end of August, 1879.

1878

In December, 1878, the congregation rented Weisel Hall for the holding of its religious services, at a rental of $300 per annum.

1879

In the same month in which the Reverend A. L. Meyer [Mayer] left the city for an unknown destination, i. e., in August, 1879, after having been "discharged" by Congregation Leshem Shomayim, Dr. Jacob Theodore Vogelsdorf [or Vogelsdorff] was elected minister of the congregation, for the term of one year. However, the Reverend Vogelsdorf got into trouble with the congregation, certain charges having been brought against him, and although, on the surface, the congregation "officially" passed or adopted a "vote of confidence" in him, and exonerated him from these charges, the fact remains that the Reverend Vogelsdorf did not serve out even the one year of his contract. His contract was cancelled as of January 1, 1880, and he left the city of Wheeling and the congregation after barely five months in the city and position, shortly after January 1, 1880.

It is of interest that on November 9, 1879, a motion was made and seconded, at a congregational meeting, "that we pay to any

one member that wants to act as messinger [*sic*] [Shammash?] $70 cash [per annum] and his membership free — Carried."

1880

For three months after Jacob Theodore Vogelsdorf had left Wheeling in January, 1880, the congregation was unable to obtain the services of a minister or preacher. As the new minister, as of April 1, 1880, there was engaged the Reverend I. [Isaac?] N. Saenger, who served only until August 9, 1880, thus for barely more than four months. Apparently, the Reverend I. N. Saenger came to Wheeling from Petersburg, Va., which city was the site of his previous congregation.

Excerpts from the official minutes of the congregation for the year 1880 read as follows:

Dr. I. N. Saenger, formerly of Petersburg, Va., was elected rabbi of the congregation for one year, on April 1, 1880. At this time (May, 1880), P. [?] S. Kraus [Samuel Krause] was vice president of the congregation. However, Rabbi I. N. Saenger apparently served for only about seven [four] months; he resigned as of August 9, 1880, and left the city, for reasons unknown.[1]

On August 9, 1880, a committee of three was appointed to revise the bylaws and to adopt new bylaws. Samuel Kraus, James Speyer, and E. [Emil] Emsheimer were appointed the members of this committee.

At the congregational meeting held on October 3, 1880, Morris Sessler was elected rabbi of the congregation, to serve for one year.[2] In attendance at this meeting were [only] the following 17 members:

L. [Lewis] Beekman	Jacob Emsheimer, Sr.
Joe [Joseph] Eiseman	Michael Emsheimer
E. [Emil] Emsheimer	William Frank

[1] It is possible that the initial "I" of his name represented a full first name of Israel or of "Isaac."

[2] In those days, the congregation, apparently, elected its rabbi for no longer than the period of one year.

Samuel Hanauer
Simon Kline
A. [Aaron] L. Kraft
Charles Kraus
Samuel Kraus
Sol. [Solomon] Kraus
B. [Bernard] Marks
D. Pinkus
Bernard Rosenstein
William Schwabacher
Jacob Steinfeld

Occasionally, in the early minutes of the congregation, deaths of members or of members of the families of members were recorded by the secretary. Thus, in the minutes of the meeting of October 3, 1880, it is recorded that, the child of Morris Cohen having died, it was resolved at this meeting of the congregation that "the whole body of the congregation attend the funeral of the child of Morris Cohn [Cohen]."

The General Meeting of the Congregation, Held on November 7, 1880

A. [Abraham] Sonneborn resigned as a member of the congregation as of November 7, 1880, and the minutes of the congregation carried the following item: "The resignation of Mr. A. [Abraham] Sonneborn was read and accepted, and the secretary [was] authorized to notify him of it, with the understanding that none but members of the congregation [were to] be admitted to the church [synagogue]." [1]

In the minutes for the next ten or more years, frequent resignations of members of the congregation, with no indication at all of the reason or reasons for such resignations, are carried or mentioned, and often, in this connection, it is stated in the minutes that the resignation was accepted, "subject to the resigning member's payment of his arrears in dues." Several times, upon members' resigning, a committee of one or more persons was appointed to visit or see the would-be resigner and to ascertain the reasons for such resignation, and, occasionally,

[1] I. e., if Mr. A. Sonneborn persisted in his determination to resign as a member of the congregation, he would no longer be admitted to the congregation or to the temporary meeting hall rooms then used by the congregation.

resignations of members in arrears in their dues for one year or more were not accepted.

On November 1, 1880, at the general meeting of the congregation, the following officers and trustees were elected:

PRESIDENT: B. [Bernard] Rosenstein
VICE PRESIDENT: Samuel Krause [Kraus]
TREASURER: James Speyer
SECRETARY: B. [Bernard] Marks

TRUSTEES

Joe Schwabacher
Joe Eiseman
A. [Aaron; Aron] L. Kraft (elected in the previous year)

In that year (1880–1881), Morris Horkheimer and Joe [Joseph] Emsheimer were the "graveyard [cemetery] committee."

1881

After the departure of the Reverend I. [Isaac] N. Saenger from the city, in August, 1880, there was again an "interregnum," of some three months, before the Reverend Morris Sessler was, on October 3, 1880, elected rabbi of the congregation, as of November 1, 1880, for the period of one year, to November 1, 1881, at the salary of $800 per annum. On July 3, 1881, at a special meeting of the congregation, he was re-elected for one year, and at this time his salary was again fixed at the sum of $800 per annum (or $66.67 a month). In 1881, also, Lorenz Glatz, who had been serving as the sexton [messenger? Shammash?] of the congregation, was re-elected to that position.

A special meeting of Congregation Leshem Shomayim was held on January 30, 1881, "the object of the meeting being stated, viz., the joining of this congregation to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations." The following resolutions, brought in by Joseph Emsheimer, were adopted at that time: (The spellings and the English have been left as in the original.)

"Whereas, the time has come that every Congregation in the United States should render a helping hand in effecting a unity

of the different congregations of the United States, and whereas their is allready what is called the Hebrew Union of Congregations of the United States in excistence,

"Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Congregation Leshem Shomaim of the City of Wheeling to make application on the above Hebrew Union of Congregations to become a part thereoff

"Provided a majority of the present members by their suffrages will consent thereto.

"And be it further resolved that expiereince [experience] has proved itself now to be a matter of necessity for the preservation of this Congregation and the future prosperity of the same.[1]

"Singed [Signed] Joe Emsheimer."

February 27, 1881

A committee of five was appointed, on this date, to draft a new set of "By Laws and Rules" in English. This committee consisted of the following members:

E. [Emil] Emsheimer
Joseph Emsheimer
Bernard Marks
A. [Albert] L. Rice
M. [Marx] Weiler

July 3, 1881

H. [Henry] Horkheimer became a member of the congregation, by application. In the following years, he took a prominent role in the work of the congregation, serving as an officer or trustee, and as a member of various committees.

The Reverend Morris Sessler was re-elected for one year, as minister of the congregation, on July 3, 1881. It is of interest that at no time during his seven-year tenure of office as minister of the congregation was he ever elected or re-elected for more

[1] It will be noted, in the above, that on May 8, 1874, Congregation Leshem Shomayim already *had* joined the U. A. H. C. as an affiliated member. It would thus appear that its membership in the Union had been allowed to lapse some time before 1881.

than one year, and at times his thin tenure of office seemed greatly in doubt.

The General Annual Meeting of October 2, 1881

Excerpts from the minutes:

"The report of the Grave Yard [Cemetery] Committee was red [*sic*] [read], and their recommendations [were] adopted. It was moved by Mr. Joseph Emsheimer, [and] duly seconded, that Ten dollars be appropriated to refund [reimburse] Mr. Lorenz Glatz [the sexton of the congregation] for defending the interest of our grave yard. Carried. (Amended: And he be instructed to notify the Grave Yard Committee should trouble occur again before going to Law.) Carried."

The officers elected on October 2, 1881, to serve for one year, were:

President: Bernard Rosenstein
Vice President: Samuel Kraus
Secretary: Joseph Emsheimer
Treasurer: James Speyer

Trustees

Henry Horkheimer
Aron [Aaron] L. Kraft
Marx Weiler

On October 2, 1881, also, Lorenz Glatz was re-elected sexton [Shammash] of the congregation.

The minutes of this meeting contain a reference to "the bill of William H. Sheib for books, amounting to $8.75. [This bill] was red [*sic*], and ordered paid." Mrs. William H. Sheib is also mentioned in the minutes as having "done work for the congregation." In 1881, the minutes contain a reference to the matter of the purchase of an organ for the congregation, with the assistance of the Ladies' Aid Society.

On November 20, 1881, the holding of a ball [public dance] was approved, for the raising of funds for the purchase of an organ. Later this ball was ordered cancelled, and on December

18, 1881, at a special meeting of the congregation, it was resolved to solicit contributions, or subscriptions, from members of the congregation for ["towards"] the purchase of the organ. There was appointed, for this purpose, a special committee of five members, consisting of the following:

E. [Emil] Emsheimer
M. Haym
Aron L. Kraft
Charles Kraus
James Speyer

1882

On January 15, 1882, at a meeting of the congregation, the following 21 members [one of them only a seatholder] of the congregation "agree[d] to pay the sum set opposite our names as a[n] addition to our regular dues per annum as required by law":

Samuel Kraus $40.00
E. [Emil] Emsheimer $40.00
James Speyer $50.00
Bernard Rosenstein $40.00
Bernhard Horkheimer $30.00
Simon Kline $35.00
Henry Horkheimer $50.00
Henry Jacobs $30.00
Jacob Steinfield [Steinfeld] $30.00
Michial [Michael] Emsheimer $40.00
Abr.[aham] Sonneborn $30.00
Marx Weiler $35.00
Samuel S. Bloch $50.00
Solomon Kraus $40.00
Charles Kraus $40.00
Jacob Emsheimer, Sr. $20.00
David Pinkus $20.00
Maurice [Morris] Horkheimer $40.00
Joseph Emsheimer, donation of services as secretary of the congregation and $30.00
Henry Speyer not as a member, only a seat[holder], $30.00
Victor Rosenburg [Rosenberg], as a full member $50.00

On July 2, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Sheib resigned their offices in the congregation. The Reverend Morris Sessler was re-elected minister of the congregation.

Meeting of July 16, 1882. At this congregational meeting it was "moved and seconded that the congregation make arrange-

ments to have a choir, and to pay $75 to accomplish the purpose, and to make a contract with William H. Sheib and Mrs. Sheib. Carried."

In this year, Abraham Seidenbach was elected a member of the congregation. Marcus Rich was elected a member of the congregation on August 20, 1882. On September 10, 1882, Jacob Emsheimer, Jr., was elected to membership in the congregation.

Meeting of October 1, 1882. At the meeting of the congregation held on October 1, 1882, the following officers were elected to serve for one year:

President: Aron L. Kraft
Vice President: H. [Henry] H. Mansbach
Secretary: Joseph Emsheimer
Treasurer: Bernard Marks

Trustees

Henry Horkheimer
Samuel S. Bloch
Jacob Emsheimer, Jr.

Graveyard Committee

Joseph Emsheimer
B. [Bernard] Rosenstein
M. [Maurice, or Morris] Horkheimer

School [Religious School] Committee:

Samuel S. Bloch
B. [Bernard] Rosenstein
Henry Horkheimer

1883

David Levy was elected a member of the congregation, and Joseph Fox resigned as a member. Mark [Marx] Weiler resigned as a member of the congregation on April 1, 1883. The minutes record many resignations of members of the congregation in those years.[1]

[1] Because of financial difficulties? Because of disagreements or "difficulties" with

October 1, 1883. The term of the Reverend Morris Sessler as rabbi of the congregation expired on October 1, 1883, but he was once again re-elected, at an annual salary [the same] of $800, for a one-year term extending from October 1, 1883, to October 1, 1884.

At the congregational meeting held on October 1, 1883, the following officers were elected for the one-year period from October, 1883, to October, 1884:

President: Aron L. Kraft [re-elected]
Vice President: J. [Julius] Brilles
Secretary: Joseph Emsheimer [re-elected]
Treasurer: Bernard Marks [re-elected]

Trustees

Henry Horkheimer [re-elected]
Abraham Seidenbach
Charles Kraus

1884

October 5, 1884. General Meeting of the Congregation

The following officers were elected for one year, on October 5, 1884:

President: James Speyer
Vice President: Michael Emsheimer
Secretary: Joseph Emsheimer
Treasurer: Bernard Marks

Trustees

Morris Horkheimer
H. [Henry] H. Mansbach
Samuel Krause [Kraus]

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the officers or the board of trustees of the congregation? Because of dissatisfaction with the rabbi? Many of these "resigned" members, apparently, returned to the congregational fold as members in the following years, after their "differences" with, or their "grievances" against, the officers or the rabbi or the board of trustees of the congregation had been resolved.

GRAVE YARD [CEMETERY] COMMITTEE

Julius Brilles
Henry Horkheimer
Joseph Emsheimer

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Julius Brilles
Bernard Horkheimer
J. [Jacob] Emsheimer, Jr.
Abraham Seidenbach
Joseph Emsheimer

1885

On January 4, 1885, Henry Baer was elected a member of the congregation, upon application.

On March 15, 1885, "the resignation[s] of Aron L. Rice . . . and H. [Henry] H. Mansbach . . . [were] accepted in [on] the condition that [they] pay [their] dues to October, 1885."

At the same meeting, Tobias Van Bergh was elected a member of the congregation. He was, at once, elected secretary of the congregation, Bernard Rosenstein was elected treasurer, and Julius Brilles was elected a trustee. Thereafter, for years, Tobias Van Bergh played a prominent role in the history of the congregation as an officer and as a member of several committees.

Excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of April 5, 1885:

"On motion of Mr. B. [Bernard] Rosenstein, and duly seconded, that the Board of Trustees notify Rev. Dr. [Morris] Sessler on or befor[e] July 1, 1885, that by his contract with the congregation wite [would?] expire on the 1st of October [1885]."

However, at the meeting of July 5, 1885, it was "moved by Moses Blum, and duly seconded, that Rev. Morris Sessler be engaged for the next year, at a salery [salary] of $850 eight hundred and fifty per annum (payable monthly). Carried unanimously."

Later minutes of the congregation indicate that the Reverend Morris Sessler served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim until December 1, 1887. In 1885, apparently, he was given a $50 per annum increase in salary.

At the regular annual meeting of the congregation, held on

October 4, 1885, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

PRESIDENT: Michael Emsheimer
VICE PRESIDENT: Morris Horkheimer
SECRETARY: Tobias Van Bergh [re-elected]
TREASURER: Bernard Rosenstein

TRUSTEES

Julius Brilles
Aron L. Kraft
Simon Kline

President Michael Emsheimer appointed the following men as the Grave Yard [Cemetery] Committee:

Samuel S. Bloch
Morris Horkheimer
Joseph Emsheimer

and the following men as members of the Board of Education of the Congregation [the School Committee]:

E. M. Brasch
Victor Rosenburg [Rosenberg]
Jacob Emsheimer, Jr.
Bernard Rosenstein
Joseph Emsheimer

Also, at the meeting of October 4, 1885, a Committee of Seven "was appointed for the purpose of reorganizing the congregation and to devise plans for building a Temple." The Committee of Seven thus appointed consisted of the following men:

Julius Brilles
Simon Kline
Jacob Emsheimer, Jr.
Samuel Kraus
Joseph Emsheimer
Bernard Rosenstein
Morris Horkheimer

The sum of $10 was ordered paid, at that time, to a "Mr. Hoff for singing in the choir during the holy days." [1]

At a special meeting of the congregation, held on November 8, 1885, it was "moved by Victor Rosenberg [Rosenburg], seconded by Henry Baer, that a committee of (4) four be appointed

[1] Later on in the minutes, the name of Mr. Hoff was spelled also as Mr. Hupp.

and be instructed to report upon the feasibility and probable cost of laying out the grounds of our cemetery into lots and still retain sufficient ground to give members [of the congregation] the prividge [privilege] they now have, and that the grave yard committe[e] act in conjunction with the above committe[e], allso that the committe[e] [is] not to expend more than ($25) twenty five dollars for suitable pasen [for a suitable person] to survey. . . . "

The following committee was, accordingly, appointed by the president of the congregation:

Henry Baer	S. [Samuel] Kraft
Julius Brilles	Charles Kraus

According to the minutes of later meetings of the congregation, "3 acres of land were ordered bought near Edgington Lane," for use as part of the cemetery, in lieu of the improvement project, which was abandoned, and a committee of three, consisting of Julius Brilles, Samuel S. Bloch, and Morris Horkheimer, was appointed to raise funds for the purchase of the ground mentioned above, through personal solicitation of all the members of the congregation. Later, at the same meeting, these two motions were reconsidered and were defeated.

1886

At the regular meeting of the congregation, held on April 11, 1886, it was "moved by Mr. Simon Horkheimer, and duly second[ed], that a committee of three be appointed to organized [organize] a Young Gentlemen's Hebrew Association. Committee:

S. [Simon] Horkheimer
J. Briles [Julius Brilles]
Joseph Emsheimer."

Mentioned in the minutes of the congregation as [new] members from about 1885–1886 up to 1890, are the following 37 additional men and one woman:

D. Ash	H. Baer	M. Baer
B. Baer	Lee Baer	A. Bear

Jacob Blum
E. M. Brasch
E. [Emanuel] Buckman
John Emsheimer
William H. Frank
L. S. Good
D. Gundling
M. Hanauer
Meyer Heyman
I. Isenbergh [Israel Isenberg]
Henry Jacobs
J. Jacobs
Ralph Kline
Charles Kraus
Solomon Kraus
D. Levy
E. Levy
A. Marks
B. Marks[1]
L. Metz
E. Moss
David Pinkus
A. [August] Pollock
A. Rheinstrom
M. Rich
M. Rizenstein
G. Rosenhain
Louis Schwalb
Joseph Sonneborn
Jacob Steinfield [Steinfeld]
C. Steinhauser
Mrs. Swabaker [first name not given][2]

On July 4, 1886, the Reverend Morris Sessler was again re-elected minister of the congregation, for the year extending from October 1, 1886, to October 1, 1887, at the same salary of $850 per annum. He was once again (for the final time) re-elected to serve as minister of the congregation from October 1, 1887, to October 1, 1888. However, for reasons not apparent in the minutes, he did not serve out this full term until October 1, 1888, and he appears to have served only for two additional months, up to December 1, 1887, by agreement with the congregation, and then to have left the city for good.

On October 3, 1886, Aron [Aaron] L. Kraft was elected president of the congregation.

In 1886, Max Wild, a Mr. Williams, and a Mrs. Aarons (the first names of the latter two are not recorded in the minutes of the congregation) were choir singers in Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

1887

At a special meeting of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, held on May 22, 1887, a committee of five, consisting of

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[1] Presumably a different person from Bernard Marks.

[2] Some of the above were, or had been, members of the congregation in previous years; they were *not all new members*.

Jacob Emsheimer, Jr.	Henry Jacobs
Meyer Heyman	Samuel Kraft
Morris Horkheimer	

was "appointed to lay out the grounds of the cemetery in lots and the committee [to] have power to act."

On September 4, 1887, this "Committee on Laying out the Grave Yard" was discharged, and a new committee of five (differing from the previous one only in the replacement of Morris Horkheimer by Henry Baer; the other four members were the same as those mentioned above) was appointed. It is apparent that it was the object of this committee of five to secure additional assessments or contributions for the cemetery through the sale of lots [plots] in the cemetery to the congregational members.

The congregation advertised "for a minister to serve from November 1, 1887, at a salary of $1,200 per year."

At a special meeting of the congregation, held on September 18, 1887, it was reported that the following fourteen members of the congregation [only a small fraction of the actual membership] had subscribed for "grave yard lots":

Jacob Emsheimer, Jr.	1 lot	at $50.00
Meyer Heyman	1 lot	at $50.00
Henry Jacobs	1 lot	at $50.00
Samuel Kraft	1 lot	at $50.00
Aron L. Kraft	1 lot	at $50.00
Bernard Rosenstein	1 lot	at $50.00
E. [Emil] Emsheimer	1 lot	at $50.00
M. [Michael] Emsheimer	1 lot	at $50.00
Ralph Kline	1 lot	at $50.00
Simon Kline	1 lot	at $50.00
Mrs. A. [Abraham] Sonneborn	1 lot	at $50.00
William H. Frank	1 lot	at $50.00
Israel Isenburg [Isenberg]	1 lot	at $25.00
Joseph Emsheimer	1 lot	at $50.00

On October 2, 1887, Henry Baer was elected president of the congregation, for a one-year term; Henry Jacobs was elected

vice president; E. [Emanuel] Buckman, treasurer; and Tobias Van Bergh, secretary.

At the same meeting, the following trustees of the congregation were elected " . . . to serve five years, when the congregation is [shall have been] incorporated according to the laws of the State of West Virginia:

Jacob Emsheimer, Jr.
Julius Brilles
Simon Horkheimer
B. [Bernard] Horkheimer
Samuel Kraus."

At the same meeting, also, "it was duly moved and seconded that a committee of three be appointed to tender to Rev. M. [Morris] Sessler the situation of minister for the term of two months from October 1st [1887] at the same salary [as that] for last year, $70.83 [a month], and said contract [is] to be good as soon as the said Rev. M. Sessler deposits his resignation to take effect on December 1, 1887."

Of great interest in the history of Congregation Leshem Shomayim is the following paragraph, excerpted from the minutes of a "special meeting of the whole congregation called this day [November 13, 1887], for 2 O'clock to hear the Reverend B. [Benjamin] A. Bonnheim leture [lecture]." After the lecture, "the President requested the members to remain in the synagouge [synagogue], and to express their opinion of the Rev. Gent. [the Reverend Gentleman]. The meeting adjured [adjourned] untill after the leture [lecture] in the evening."

Evidently, the Reverend Mr. Benjamin A. Bonnheim delivered *two* "trial" lectures, or sermons, before the congregation, on his preliminary visit to the city and the congregation in November, 1887. The congregation, however, did not at once elect the Rev. Mr. Bonnheim to be its minister, but it evidently had invited other Jewish ministers, or rabbis, to visit the congregation and to "try out" for the "situation," for in the month of November or December, 1887, [the Reverend] Mr. Max Moses "lectured" before the congregation [i. e., he "gave a trial sermon," or "tried out" for the position of minister of the congregation]. However, the Reverend Mr. Max Moses was not elected rabbi of the congregation; instead, by vote, at a meeting,

he was "granted the sum of $50 and the payment of his hotel bill." (As an unsuccessful "candidate" for the Wheeling rabbinical position, he was repaid for his expenses in coming to the city.) Still another minister, by the name of the Reverend Philo,[1] was scheduled to visit the congregation, for the purpose, no doubt, of lecturing (preaching a "trial" sermon) and of "trying out" for the position as rabbi, but his visit, according to the minutes, was "deferred" [actually, it was called off entirely], for in the interim the congregation had "made up its collective mind" to elect either Benjamin A. Bonnheim or Max Moses as its rabbi.

1888

Accordingly, on January 1, 1888, at a special meeting of the congregation, and by a vote of 25 to 11, with four of the members abstaining from the voting, the Reverend Benjamin A. Bonnheim was elected minister of the congregation as of "the 1st of March [1888], or from the time that he shall first perform the duties of minister" [from the time when he shall report for his rabbinical duties, and arrive in the city.] The Reverend Benjamin A. Bonnheim's salary, as had been previously advertised by the congregation, was fixed at $1,200 per annum.[2]

According to a later resolution adopted by the congregation, it was voted "that the salary of Rev. B. A. Bonnheim commence on the first day of March, 1888, in consideration for [of] his traveling expenses." Apparently, the Reverend Mr. Benjamin A. Bonnheim[3] arrived in Wheeling [from Cincinnati?] by or

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[1] His first name is not recorded in the minutes. Could be possibly have been the father of Rabbi Isador E. Philo, of Youngstown, Ohio, a notable later C. C. A. R. member, who died in 1948?

[2] If the congregation ever took a vote on the possible election of the Reverend Mr. Max Moses, it is not recorded in the minutes.

It is possible that the 11 votes which were cast *against* Benjamin A. Bonnheim, mentioned above, were cast *for* Max Moses; and that the "four of the members who abstained from the voting," out of the 40 congregational members present at that meeting, could not make up their minds as to whether to vote for Bonnheim or for Moses.

[3] He was not ordained by the Hebrew Union College, of Cincinnati, in the years from 1883 to 1888.

shortly before April 1, 1888, and his salary was paid to him, retroactively, beginning with March 1, 1888, the unearned March, 1888, salary being for the purpose of reimbursing him for his traveling [and moving?] expenses [from Cincinnati?] to Wheeling. It was a good choice on the part of the congregation, for his rabbinate in Wheeling was highly successful, and lasted for almost ten years.[1] The modern period of the congregation, with an almost unbroken succession of eminent, talented, and highly successful rabbis, may be considered to have begun with the arrival of Benjamin A. Bonnheim in April, 1887.

Accordingly, on July 1, 1888, after an initial or "trial" period of exactly three months with the congregation, "Reverend B. A. Bonnheim was duly elected [re-elected] minister of this congregation for one year, from October 1, 1888, to October 1, 1889, at the same salary, viz.,$1,200 per year." He was re-elected eight more times, always for one-year contracts, and was the first eminently successful rabbi of the congregation, serving as the last wholly "nineteenth-century" rabbi, i. e., for almost nine and one-half years, until September, 1897, when he left Wheeling and was succeeded as rabbi by Harry Levi, the first of the modern and "twentieth-century" rabbis of the Wheeling Reform congregation. Harry Levi, equally and even more successful than Benjamin A. Bonnheim in his rabbinate with the congregation, served for an even longer period, from 1897 to 1911, and could, in all probability, have served for life, but he left in 1911 to assume the charge of the much larger Temple Israel, of Boston, in which city he remained, as rabbi or as rabbi emeritus of that congregation, until his death in 1944.[2]

1890

On June 30, 1890, the Mount Wood Cemetery, located on the National Pike, was incorporated, after many years of use, as the

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[1] That of the Reverend Mr. Max Moses, had he been elected, might have been equally successful; he apparently dropped out of American Jewish history after his failure to be elected rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, in late 1887 or early 1888.

[2] Brief biographies of all these Wheeling rabbis are presented below.

cemetery of Congregation Leshem Shomayim. It was sometimes, as has been noted above, called by the now archaic term of the Graveyard, in the congregational minutes.

1892

(From the records of Rabbi George B. Lieberman)

1849

DEDICATION PROGRAM
DEDICATION SERVICES
OF THE TEMPLE,
LESHEM SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION,
OF WHEELING, W. VA.,
FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH, 1892.

1892.

DEDICATION SERVICE.

1. Organ.....Prelude
(Upon [the] Entrance of the Carriers of the "Torahs" [the] Congregation will please rise.)
2. MA TOWU.....Kitziger

CHOIR

3. THE RABBIS
"Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord."
"We bless you out of the house of the Lord."
"Let the name of the Lord be blessed from this time forth and for evermore."
([The] Congregation is seated.)
4. UNFOLD YE PORTALS EVERLASTING.....Gounod

CHOIR

5. ADDRESS.
MR. MORRIS HORKHEIMER,
Chairman of the Building Committee.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF THE KEY OF THE TEMPLE AND ADDRESS
   MR. HENRY BAER,
   President of the Congregation.
7. SEU SHEORIM ROSHECHEM.....Naumburg

CHOIR

([The] Congregation rises.)

8. PRAYER. The Rabbis deposit the "Torahs" in the Holy Ark
9. SH'MAH JISROEL

CHOIR

([The] Congregation is seated.)

10. EZ CHAJIM.....Kitziger

CHOIR

11. READING OF SCRIPTURES. { Genesis, 1, 1–5; I Chronicles, ch. 29; II Chronicles, ch. 6; Psalms 84 and 132 }
12. KINDLING OF THE PERPETUAL LAMP.
    MR. HENRY JACOBS,
    Vice President of the Congregation
13. HODO [HODU] LADONOI.....Kitziger

CHOIR

14. SERMON.....REV. DR. B. A. [BENJAMIN AARON] BONNHEIM
    [then rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim]
15. O, BE JOYFUL IN THE LORD.....CHOIR
16. DEDICATORY SERMON
    REV. DR. BENJAMIN SZOLD,
    of Baltimore, Md.

17. O, HAD I JUBAL'S LYRE — Solo . . . . . Handel
MRS. FLORA WILLIAMS
18. ORATION
REV. DR. LOUIS GROSSMAN,
of Detroit, Mich.
19. "IN DIESEN HEILIGEN HALLEN" — Solo . . . Mozart
MR. CHARLES ZULAUF
20. DEDICATION
(Solomon's Prayer) . . REV. DR. B. A. BONNHEIM
21. HALLELUJAH (150th Psalm)

Sabbath Evening Service

Conclusion Song . . . . . Choir
Benediction . . . . . Rev. Dr. Benjamin Szold

Officers [1892]

Rev. Dr. B. A. [Benjamin Aaron] Bonnheim . . . Rabbi
Henry Baer . . . . . President
Henry Jacobs . . . . . Vice Pres[iden]t
Tobias Van Bergh . . . . . Secretary
E. [Emanuel] Buckman . . . . . Treasurer

Trustees

Julius Brilles, Ch[airma]n
Bernard Horkheimer
Samuel Kraus
A. [Aron] L. Kraft
Samuel S. Bloch

Joint Committee

Morris Horkheimer
Chairman of the Building Com.[mittee]
Henry Jacobs
E. [Emanuel] Buckman

Samuel Kraft
Chairman of the Finance Com.[mittee]
E. [Emil] Emsheimer
Sam[ue]l S. Bloch

Bullard Printing House, Wheeling, W. Va.[1]

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[1] The large-measure German composition of the congregational membership in

1900–1901

In the year 1900 to 1901, Congregation Leshem Shomayim collected and dispensed a relief fund. This was done for several years.

1905

In 1905, a Rabbi Wise Ward in the only city hospital was furnished by the Jewish women of Wheeling, in memory of Isaac Mayer Wise, the famous Cincinnati rabbi and leader of American Reform Judaism and founder of the Hebrew Union College, who had passed away in Cincinnati on March 26, 1900.

Rabbi Harry Levi, then rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple, took a minor part in the celebration of The Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Jews in the United States (1655–1905), which was observed[1] by means of addresses in Carnegie Hall, New York, and in Boston, Mass., on Thanksgiving Day of the year 1905, and by means of a religious service held in a New York synagogue on the day before Thanksgiving Day in that year. Harry Levi was a member of the General Committee, as the sole representative of the General Committee from the State of West Virginia, and attended the ceremonies, which were held under the auspices of the American Jewish Historical Society.

1914

From 1914 on, for several years, M. [Moses] Sonneborn was a contributor, from Wheeling, to the C. C. A. R. Relief Fund.

1892 is indicated in part not only by the Ashkenazic (German Jewish) names of some, or rather, many, of the members of the congregation, but also by the German spellings, in the Dedication Program, of some of the Hebrew words and names, for example, with the German *J* instead of the English Y, with the German *W* for the English *V*, with the German *O* for the English *A*, and with the German *Z* for the English *TZ*, as in Jisroel for Yisrael, in Ez Chajim for Etz Chayim, in Ma Towu for Mah Tovu, and in Seu Sheorim Roshechem for Seu Shearim Rashechem.

[1] One year late? 1654–1904?

1916

Beginning with February 20, 1916, a monthly *Jewish Community Bulletin* was published by the congregation for some time. It was then again reissued, after a lapse of many years, by Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman, in 1952.

1916

(Data from the Files of Rabbi George B. Lieberman)

PROGRAM BOOKLET, 1916

1856 — SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY — 1916
FOUNDING OF [THE] CONGREGATION

1891 — TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY — 1916
CORNERSTONE LAYING[1]

TEMPLE LESHEM SHOMAYIM

November 10th to 13th, 1916 Wheeling, W. Va.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TEMPLE CELEBRATION

Mr. Louis Horkheimer, CHAIRMAN
Mr. Eugene M. Baer, Secretary
Mr. Leon B. Stein
Rabbi A. H. [Abba Hillel] Silver

USHER COMMITTEE

Mr. Irwin H. Baer, CHAIRMAN

Mr. Cha[rle]s Schlessinger
Mr. Leon Reichblum
Mr. Marc Wolf
Mr. Bernard Horkheimer
Mr. Milton Gutman
Mr. Cha[rle]s Henry Baer

[1] There was a picture of Temple Leshem Shomayim here.

Committee on Decorations

Miss Marie Heyman, Chairman

Miss Amelia Bachenheimer
Miss Rae Steinhauser
Miss Flora Isenberg
Miss Rosa Moss
Miss Anna Front
Miss Emma Hanauer
Miss Cora Emsheimer
Miss Rose Reichblum
Miss Ida Broverman
Miss Jennie Reich
Miss Virginia Horkheimer[1]
Miss Fannie Heyman
Miss Rita Speyer

Music Committee

Mr. Eugene M. Baer, Chairman

Mr. Leon Klee
Rabbi A. H. [Abba Hillel] Silver
Mrs. Belle Kirtz
Mrs. A. [Albert] M. Rice

Young People's Evening

Mr. Eugene M. Baer, Chairman

Mr. J. E. Moss
Mr. Samuel Orenstein
Mr. Samuel L. Jacobs
Mr. Henry Front
Mr. David Speyer

Banquet Committee

Mr. Leon B. Stein, Chairman

Mr. Dave Kraus
Mrs. Leo Wolf
Mrs. Ben S. Baer
Mrs. L. S. Good
Mrs. Morris Jacobs
Mr. H. [Herbert] O. Baer
Mrs. Mollie B. Gutman
Mrs. Samuel Kraft
Mr. E. A. Reich

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[1] On January 2, 1923, Miss Virginia Horkheimer married Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, then rabbi of Tifereth Israel Congregation (The Temple), of Cleveland, Ohio.

Officers

1917

M. [Moses] Sonneborn, President
Eugene M. Baer, Vice-President
A. H. [Abba Hillel] Silver, Rabbi
August Duga, Secretary
Herbert O. Baer, Treasurer

Trustees

1917

Simon Kline
Louis Horkheimer
Samuel Kraft
Leon B. Stein
Louis C. Kraft

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Friday Evening, November 10th, 1916 7.45 o'clock

Eoff Street Temple

Prelude — Meditation from "Thais" . . . . . Massenet
Miss Jessie Wolfe
Responsive Service
Instrumental Duet — "Song Without Words" . . . . . Bartlett
Mr. Laurence H. Summers
Mr. Fred Meyers
Solo with Violin Ob[b]ligato — "Hear, Holy Father" . . Gounod
Mrs. Elsie Gundling-Duga
Addresses — Former Presidents of [the] Temple
Early Days of [the] Congregation . . . Mr. A. [Aaron] L. Kraft
Building of [the] Temple . . . . . Mr. Samuel Kraft
Past of [the] Congregation . . . . . Mr. Simon Kline
Present of [the] Congregation . . . . . Mr. Moses Sonneborn
Future of [the] Congregation . . . . . Mr. Louis Horkheimer
Anthem — "By the Waters of
Babylon" . . . . . Martin

Choir

Greetings — From Former Rabbis

M. [Morris] Sessler Harry Levi

A. [Abram] Brill M. [Morris] S. Lazaron

Instrumental Duet — "Serenade" . . . . . Herbert

Mr. Laurence H. Summers

Mr. Fred Meyers

Anniversary Sermon

Rabbi A. H. [Abba Hillel] Silver

Baritone Solo — "O God, Have Mercy"

(St. Paul) . . . . . Mendelssohn

Mr. W. S. Leach

Benediction

Postlude[1]

Children's Anniversary Service

Saturday Morning, November 11, 1916

10.30 O'Clock Eoff Street Temple

Religious School Celebration

Sunday Morning, November 12, 1916

10.00 O'Clock Vestry Room, Eoff Street Temple

Young People's Evening

Sunday Evening, November 12th, 1916

Vestry Room, Eoff Street Temple

The Temple Dramatic Club

Under [the] direction of Mr. Eugene M. Baer, Presents Two Playlets:

"Too Much Galatea"

A Farce in One Act

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[1] The Anniversary Booklet contained Greetings from Rabbi Louis Grossman[n], of Cincinnati, who had delivered the Dedicatory Address in 1892; and from the following four former rabbis of the Congregation: M. [Morris] Sessler, of Roanoke, Va.; Harry Levi, of Boston; Abram Brill, of Meridian, Miss.; and Morris S. Lazaron, of Baltimore.

CAST:

Jack Fenton — A Wealthy Young Bachelor.....Mr. Marc Wolf
Wilkins — Jack's Man Servant.....Mr. Leon Reichblum
Galatea — The Statue.....Miss Anna Front
Mrs. Wriggles — A Landlady.....Miss Rosa Moss
Scene: Jack Fenton's Apartments, Mrs. Wriggles' House, 10 A.M.

"HIS LORDSHIP, THE BURGLAR"
A Comedietta in One Act

CAST:

Miss Mildred Haversham — Young American Heiress.....Miss Janet Moss
Lord Ralston — Young British Nobleman.....Mr. Milton Gutman
Tom Haversham — Brother of Mildred and Friend of Ralston.....Mr. Laurence Wolin
Scene: Living Room in [the] Haversham Mansion, Hopedale [, England]

BANQUET

McLure House [Hotel], Monday Evening, November 13, 1916 6.45 O'Clock

Grace.....Rabbi A. H. [Abba Hillel] Silver

Program: Toastmaster, Mr. Louis Horkheimer

Song — Air: America, by V. H. [Virginia Horkheimer?]
Toast — "The Ladies".....Mr. Eugene M. Baer
Reading of Congratulatory Messages...Mr. Leon B. Stein
Speeches.....Mr. Louis C. Kraft
Song — Air: "Dixieland," by L. B. S. [Leon B. Stein?]
Toast.....Rabbi A. H. Silver
Orchestra — National Airs.....Premier Orchestra

Address — Women of the
Congregation . . . . . Mrs. Leo Wolf

"WANTED — A VALET"

An Original Ethiopian Sketch

Mr. McGinty — A Lawyer . . . . . Cha[rle]s Henry Baer
Dick — His Discharged Valet . . . . . Marc Wolf
Louis Lewis } applicants . . . . . } Milton Gutman
George Washington }
Congo } . . . . . } Peter Front

Scene: McGinty's Office.

DANCING[1]

AIR — "AMERICA"

V. H. [Virginia Horkheimer?]

1. My Temple 'tis of thee,
Whose silver jubilee
We celebrate.
Thy big and little Jews
We love thy walls and pews,
When each one pays his dues,
We feel so glad.

2. We're here to celebrate
And to investigate
Why we rejoice.

[1] I cite below the texts of the two songs, Air — "America" and Air: "And They Called It Dixieland," the latter selection by Leon B. Stein, who is presumably intended by the pseudonym, or initials, of L. B. S.; and the former selection presumably by Miss Virginia Horkheimer (pseudonym, V. H.?, who later (on January 2, 1923) married Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. I have the following reasons for citing the texts of these two songs: the first, because it was written, in all probability, by the future wife of the noted American Reform rabbi; and the second, because of the names of some of the early founders and members of the congregation found in the second chorus of the song.

This is our silver spree
And sixtieth jubilee;
Bow heads and bend the knee,
And shout your song.

3. Let loud Hosannas sound
And gratitude abound
For blessings great.
We have a splendid choir,
A Rabbi — None is higher
Who doth us all inspire
To noble deeds.

4. Let's do our level best
To deserve how we are blest
And help along.
Let's help perpetuate
Our heritage so great,
In large crowds congregate
In synagogue.

AIR — "AND THEY CALLED IT DIXIELAND"

BY L. B. S. [LEON B. STEIN?]

[STANZA I]

We have always had good Jewish men, since the days of [eighteen] fifty-four.
They loved to work and worked for love, and then they worked with efforts all the more.
They always had a great deal of faith and I've known it since a kid,
That for us they were our leaders and now I'll tell you what they did:

CHORUS —

They formed a congregation for the Jews, in this our promised land,

They always were on time and paid their dues and they worked with mind and hand.
They built the Temple we now own, which we call our own dear home.
Nothing was forgotten from the top to the bottom, from the kitchen to the starry dome.
And they brought some Rabbis from the West, and they gave us words of cheer.
Faith, Hope and Charity put to the test, and now we hold them most dear.
They built and planned, this noble little band,
The Temple Leshem Shomayim where it now does stand.
And it's just as nice as Paradise, and the best in Dixieland.

[Stanza II]

Now some folks here may doubt this story and think it's a mystery.
We'll show you proof in minutes plain to see, and they make up our history.
The men who did things we now hold dear, both old and young we all should know.
And if you now give me your ear, I'll tell you who built this long ago.

Chorus —

Rosenbergs, Blum, Rosenstein, Kline, Horkheimers, Steinfield, Krafts, Brilles and Baers,
Ballenberg, Oppenheimer, Speyer, and Emsheimer, Heyman, Kraus and Bloch were there.
We owe them much, you'll own, for they built our home sweet home.
They believed in Wheeling, and had a great feeling, and never from their faith did roam.
And then they met and worked with one accord, to leave [the Temple of the Congregation?] to posterity.
All their efforts brought their own reward; this is true as true can be.

They had some fine ideas, this noble band, and everything they
did and everything they planned,
Made Friendship's ties clear cloudy skies in this our Dixieland.[1]

[Officers of Congregation Leshem Shomayim from 1866 to 1917]

Presidents

Augustus Pollack 1866–1868
Meyer Heyman 1868–1870
Simon Horkheimer 1870–1872
Michael Emsheimer 1872–1875
Bernard L. Rosenstein 1875–1877
Albert L. Rice 1877–1878
Bernard L. Rosenstein 1878–1882
Aaron [Aron] L. Kraft 1882–1884
Henry Speyer 1884–1885
Michael Emsheimer 1885–1886
Aaron L. Kraft 1886–1887
Henry Baer 1887–1891
Samuel Kraft 1891–1901
Bernard Horkheimer 1901–1904
Samuel Kraft 1904–1908
Louis Horkheimer 1908–1913
Simon Kline 1913–1915
Moses Sonneborn . . . . . 1915–1917 [1919]

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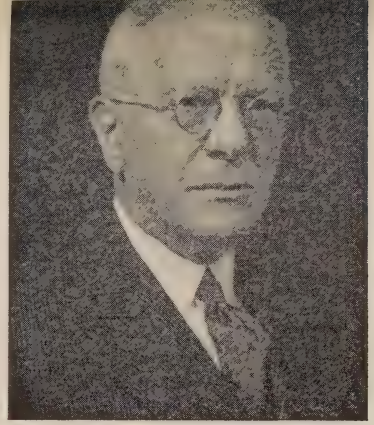
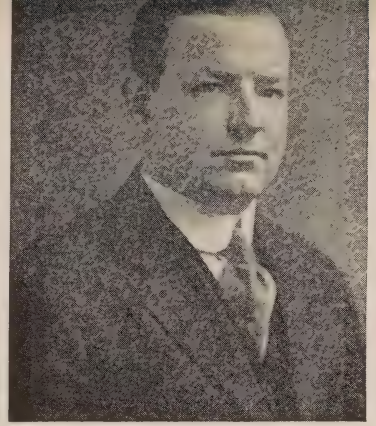
[1] Of course, the clause, "And they brought some Rabbis from the West," refers to the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, which lies some 250 miles southwest of Wheeling.

Why the author of this poem or song, L. B. S. (Leon B. Stein?), considered West Virginia, and especially Wheeling, which is situated in almost the extreme northern part of the State, on a line with Ohio and with Pittsburgh, Pa., as a part of "Dixieland"; and why he overlooked the event of June 20, 1863, when West Virginia broke away from Virginia, and from the Southern Confederacy, and ceased to be a part of "Dixieland," and became a part of the North, or of the Federal Union, in the Civil War period; and why he failed to take into account the fact that Wheeling itself, for a number of years, was the capital of the new *Northern* State of West Virginia, are things that I find it most difficult to understand.



Louis Horkheimer



Samuel Good

Arthur K. Clifford

Mrs. Benj. Kapner

Ernest Horkheimer

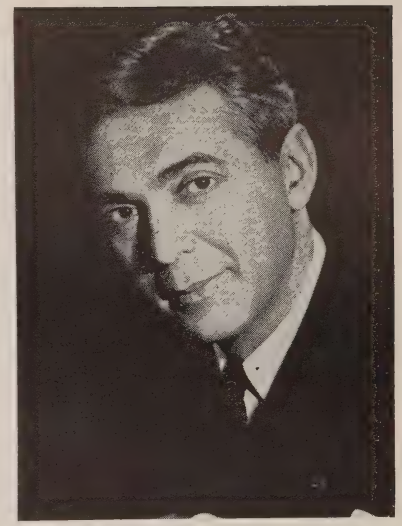
Joseph Meyer

Trustees of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1935

Rabbi George B. Lieberman

Former Rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, W. Va.
(1936–1943)

(see pages 1483–1485)



Rabbi Charles E. Shulman

Rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim
(The Eoff Street Temple)
in Wheeling, W. Va.
(1927–1931)

(see pages 1480–1482)

PLATE XL

Vice-Presidents

Samuel Kline.....1868–1870
S. [Simon] Gold.....1870–1872
Meyer Rheinstrom.....1872–1873
Bernard L. Rosenstein.....1873–1874
Victor Rosenberg.....1874–1875
Emanuel Emsheimer.....1875–1876
Samuel [S.] Bloch.....1876–1877
Marx [Max] Baer.....1877–1878
Solomon Kraus.....1878–1882
Henry H. Mansbach.....1882–1883
Jacob Brilles.....1883–1884
Michael Emsheimer.....1884–1885
Morris Horkheimer.....1885–1886
Joseph Emsheimer.....1886–1887
Henry Jacobs.....1887–1896
Joseph Emsheimer.....1896–1899
Israel Isenberg.....1900–1906
Berthold Harburger.....1907–1910
Sol.[omon] [Saul] Mayer.....1911–1912
Simon Kline.....1912–1914
Moses Sonneborn.....1914–1915
Eugene M. Baer.....1915–1917 [1918]

Secretaries

Henry Baer.....1867–1869
Louis Gold.....1869–1870
Henry Hartman.....1870–1871
Emanuel Emsheimer.....1871–1872
Isaac Blum.....1872–1873
Isaac Emsheimer.....1873–1876
Isaac Blum.....1876–1877
George Speyer.....1877–1878
Bernard Marks.....1878–1881
Joseph Emsheimer.....1881–1885
Tobias Van Bergh.....1885–1901

Joseph Raduziner 1902–1911
August Duga . . . . . 1911–1917 [1918]

Treasurers

Henry Hartman 1873–1875
Henry Jacobs 1875–1877
Simon Horkheimer 1877–1879
James Speyer 1879–1882
Bernard Marks 1882–1885
Bernard L. Rosenstein 1885–1887
Emanuel Buckman 1887–1899
Philip Hanauer 1901–1912
Herbert O. Baer . . . . . 1912–1917 [1922]

"Important Events in Our History"

1849 — April 20 — Mount Wood Cemetery purchased by [a] group of Wheeling Jews. This was the nucleus of the future congregation.

1849 — August 9 [1852?] — Death of Rabbi Meyer Mannheim, the first to be laid at [to] rest in Mount Wood Cemetery.[1]

1849–1856 — The small community [congregation] held divine services during the Holy Days [Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur] in a small room in the third floor of a house, [at the] corner of Fourteenth (then called Quincy) and Main Streets.

1856 — Rabbi [first name now unknown] Weil [was] secured, to conduct services. Rabbi Weil was the first duly elected minister of Leshem Shomayim [Congregation].

1859 — Rabbi [Isaac] Strauss [Strouse] elected Rabbi.

1861 — [The] Congregation moves to Melodeon Hall, on the east side of Main Street, near Thirteenth Street.

1863 — Rabbi Fult [B. L. Fould] elected Rabbi.

1865 — Rabbi [S.; his first full name is now unknown] Kut-

[1] The date 1849 for the death of Rabbi Meyer Mannheim represents, in all probability, an error. Meyer Mannheim, in all likelihood, died in 1852, after three years of service with the congregation in Wheeling.

tenauer elected Rabbi. The first steps in the direction of making Leshem Shomayim a Reform congregation were taken during his ministry.

1865 — [The] Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society [was] organized.

1865–1869 — The Religious School [was] organized. Family pews [were] introduced. Dr. [David] Einhorn's Prayer Book [radically Reform] supplants the Orthodox Prayer Book. The organ and choir are introduced, and hats are no longer worn in the Temple.

1872 — [The] Congregation moves to new quarters in the present Hub Building. Rabbi [first name not recorded] Schwed [Isaac Schwab?] succeeds Rabbi [S.] Kuttenauer. Rabbi [A. L.; his full first name is neither recorded nor known] Meyer [Mayer], of Richmond, Va., succeeds Rabbi Schwed [Isaac Schwab?]. Rabbi Mayer was the first to introduce regular monthly sermons.

1875 — July 25 — [The] movement for [the] building of [a] Synagogue [was] first launched. [The] Congregation moves to Beck's Block, 1517 Market Street.

1877 — [The] Congregation moves to [the] Odd Fellows' Temple, [at the] southwest corner [of] Twelfth and Chapline Streets. [The] Constitution and By-Laws of the Congregation [were] first translated into English.

1879 — Rabbi [Jacob Theodore] Vogelsdorf of California succeeds Rabbi [A. L.] Meyer [Mayer]. He was the first Rabbi to deliver weekly sermons in English.

1880 — Rabbi [I. N.] Sanger [Isaac N. Saenger] [was] elected. Rabbi Morris Sessler succeeds Rabbi Sanger [Saenger]. Rabbi Sessler first introduced the Confirmation ceremony.

1882 — October 23 — [The] Congregation votes to erect a home [synagogue] of its own.

1887 — Rabbi B. A. Bonheim [Benjamin Aaron Bonnheim] succeeds Rabbi [Morris] Sessler.

1888 — February 5 — The Cemetery, which had, since 1849, been held by the city of Wheeling in trust for the Congregation, is now transferred to it [to the congregation].

1888 — April 1 — The Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society gives

to the Congregation $2,100.00 for the building of a Temple. By April 28th $5,000.00 had been subscribed.

1888 — July 20 — A Building Committee consisting of Messrs. Morris Horkheimer, Chairman, Emanuel Emsheimer, Emanuel Buckman, Samuel Kraft, Samuel S. Bloch, and Henry Jacobs is appointed.

1889 — [The] first Religious School Board [was] appointed.

1891 — February 9 — [The] contract [was] let for [the] building of [the] Eoff Street Temple.

1891 — November 8 — The Leshem Shomayim Relief Fund is founded.[1]

1892 — April 8 — The Temple [at 1214 Eoff Street] is dedicated. The speakers on this occasion were: Rabbi B. A. Bonheim [Benjamin Aaron Bonnheim], the Rabbi of the Congregation; Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Szold, of Baltimore; and [Rabbi] Louis Grossman [Grossmann], then of Detroit, now [1916] of Cincinnati.[2]

1892 — July 3 — [The] Congregation joins the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.[3]

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[1] In the *AJYB* for 1900–1901 (Volume 2, 5661 A.M.), page 485, there is found the notation that "[the] Congregation (Leshem Shomayim) collects and dispenses a relief fund," thus continuing this congregational work of charity and relief ten years after the presumable founding of this relief fund in November, 1891. There is no further mention of this congregational relief fund either in the volumes of the *AJYB*, or in the records of the Congregation, with the exception of one reference in the revised Constitution and Bylaws of 1939, in Article VII, Section 11, and it is therefore to be inferred that the congregation's Relief Fund is still in operation and being drawn upon in 1958–1959. There is no indication in the records of the congregation that this Relief Fund was ever repealed or abolished.

[2] Rabbi Louis Grossman, of the Plum Street Temple, or Congregation Bnai Jeshurun, of Cincinnati, died at Cincinnati in 1926.

[3] Obviously, this was the *second*, or even the *third*, and not the *first*, time that Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, had joined the U. A. H. C. It apparently joined earlier, being one of the first American Reform Jewish congregations to do so, on May 8, 1874, as cited in the *77th to 80th Annual Reports of the U. A. H. C.*, December, 1955, page 682; it was unofficially, at least, a nonmember of the U. A. H. C. for a period of years thereafter, although apparently it was still carried on the Register of Congregations of the U. A. H. C. as a member or affiliated congregation during all that time; and then, according to its congregational records, [re]joined the U. A. H. C. (or joined the U. A. H. C. for the third time) on July 3, 1892. In 1881, as has been stated above, the congregation rejoined the U. A. H. C.

1897 — July 2 — Rabbi Harry Levi succeeds Rabbi Bonheim [Bonnheim].

1897–1899 — The Union Prayer Book is introduced [under Rabbi Levi, and undoubtedly with his encouragement and support]. A Religious School Library is founded. [The Religious School joins the J. P. S. A. as a contributing member, and remains a member for many years into the future.] An Alumni Association is organized, also literary and Bible classes.

1905 — April 2 — The Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society donates $1,000.00 to the Temple.

1907 — May 12 — The McLure estate adjoining the Cemetery is purchased for the purpose of enlarging it.

1908 — January 5 — Action [was] taken by the Congregation looking to [the] erection of a Religious School Annex to the Temple.

1909 — September 19 — A new Constitution and By-Laws [were] adopted.

1909 — December 10 — Free use of [the] Temple for Sunday services [was] extended to the Unitarian Society of Wheeling, whose meeting place had been destroyed by fire.

1910 — October 14 — The Religious School Annex to the Temple is dedicated.

1911 — March 10 — Rabbi [Harry] Levi resigns [in order to become rabbi of Temple Israel, of Boston].

1911 — June 25 — Rabbi Abram Brill [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Harry] Levi.

1914 — January 25 — Rabbi [Abram] Brill resigns [in order to become rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, in Meridian, Miss.]

1914 — March 22 — Rabbi Morris [S.] Lazaron [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Abram] Brill.

1914 — June 15 — Plans [were] adopted for redecorating the Temple.

1915 — February 27 — [The] mortgage [was] burned, liquidating all [the] Temple indebtedness.

1915 — June 22 — Rabbi A. H. [Abba Hillel] Silver [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Morris S.] Lazaron [who

accepted a call to become rabbi of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation].

1916 — January — [The] first Sunday morning lectures [were] introduced.

1916 — January 28 — [The] Jewish War Relief Campaign [was] begun by the Temple.

1916 — April 16 — [The] Congregation decided to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the permanent organization of the congregation [in 1856] and the 25th anniversary of the cornerstone laying of the Temple.

1916 — November 10–13 — The celebration.

1935

On March 27 and 30, 1935, the Eoff Street Temple (Congregation Leshem Shomayim) celebrated (in all likelihood, at the wrong time) the 85th anniversary of its founding in 1850. Actually, as has been stated above, Congregation Leshem Shomayim was founded in the year 1849, either on February 18, 1849, or on November 12, 1849, and not in 1850. This error was corrected in 1939, on the occasion of the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the congregation; as well as in 1949, on the occasion of the celebration of the centennial of the congregation.

1935

(Data from the files and records of Rabbi George B. Lieberman)

[85th] ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

March 27, 29, 30, 1935

EOFF STREET TEMPLE

1849 1935

85th Anniversary Events

Wednesday, March 27, [1935], 6:30 P.M. — The Anniversary Banquet, Windsor Hotel Ballroom. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland, Guest Speaker.

Friday, March 29, [1935], at 7:45 P.M. — Anniversary Services at the Temple. Rabbi James G. Heller, of Cincinnati, will preach the Anniversary Sermon.

Saturday, March 30, [1935], at 11:00 A.M. — Anniversary Services. Rabbi [Baruch] Braunstein will preach the sermon.

Following the Saturday morning services, a luncheon will be served for the children of the Religious School and their parents in the Temple's Vestry. A Purim-Anniversary play follows the luncheon.

Officers, 1935

Sigmund S. Front, President
Irwin H. Baer, Vice President
D. Milton Gutman, Treasurer
Ben F. Baer, Secretary
Baruch Braunstein, Rabbi

Trustees, 1935

Arthur K. Clifford
Samuel Good
Ernest Horkheimer
Louis Horkheimer
Mrs. Benjamin Kapner
Joseph Meyer

Committees
Executive Committees for the 85th Anniversary Celebration

The Executive Committee

S. [Sigmund] S. Front
Louis Horkheimer
Samuel Good
D. Milton Gutman
A. [Arthur] K. Clifford
Irwin Baer
Joseph Meyer
E. [Ernest S.?] Horkheimer
Mrs. Benjamin Kapner

The Banquet Committee

D. Milton Gutman, Chairman
M. R. Elikan
Peter Front

The Finance Committee

Arthur K. Clifford, Chairman
Samuel Good
Joseph Meyer
B. S. Horkheimer

The Gathering Mementos Committee

Mrs. Charles Schlesinger, Chairman
Mrs. Fannie Good
Israel Isenberg
Mrs. Sallie Baer
Mrs. D. Milton Gutman
Mrs. Irwin H. Baer
Mrs. Lottie Sonneborn

The Banquet, Program and Entertainment Committee

Irwin H. Baer, Chairman
Mrs. Benjamin Kapner
Mrs. A. L. Savin
Mrs. Alex Wishnew
Mrs. M. [R.] Elikan
Mrs. Leo Wolf
S. A. Rybeck
Samuel Front
D. Milton Gutman

The Religious Services Committee

Rabbi Baruch Braunstein, Chairman
Israel Isenberg
Sidney Schwarz
Mrs. S. A. Rybeck
Mrs. David Tyler
Mrs. Henri E. Front

The Reservations Committee

Ernest S. Horkheimer, Chairman
David Banov
Herbert O. Baer
Max Crone
Charles L. Sonneborn, Jr.
Ralph L. Miller
Alex Reichblum

The Speakers' Committee

Louis Horkheimer, Chairman
David Speyer
Charles L. Sonneborn, Sr.
Saul Rosenberg

ASSOCIATED TEMPLE ORGANIZATIONS

THE SISTERHOOD

Officers (1935)

Mrs. Benjamin Kapner, President
Mrs. Bernard Horkheimer, Vice President
Mrs. M. R. Elikan, Recording Secretary
Mrs. David Tyler, Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Max Crone, Treasurer
Mrs. Sydney S. Reichart, Auditor

THE JUNIOR SISTERHOOD

Officers (1935)

Miss Sylvia Miller, President
Miss Jean Meyer, Vice President
Miss Julia Graff, Secretary
Miss Virginia Front, Treasurer
Mrs. Alfred Arfield, Senior Advisor

THE PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Officers (1935)

Mrs. Mal [Malcolm?] Sonneborn, President
Mrs. Morris Graff, Treasurer
Mrs. Sidney L. Good, Vice President and Secretary

Greetings from Our Former Rabbis

Rabbi Harry Levi
Rabbi Abram Brill
Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron
Rabbi Hyman [A.] Iola
Rabbi Charles E. Shulman

The Banquet Program

At the Windsor [Hotel] Ballroom, Wednesday, March 27th, 1935, 6:30 O'Clock

Grace . . . . . Rabbi Baruch Braunstein
Toastmaster . . . . . Louis Horkheimer
The String Trio — David Daniels, Violin; F. Oliver Edwards, Piano; Enrico Tambourini, Cello
Song — Air: "America" — . . . . . Ensemble and the String Trio
Today . . . . . Samuel Good
Introduction . . . . . S. [Sigmund] S. Front
Address . . . . . Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Vocal Solo . . . . . Elsa Gundling Duga
Toast — "The Ladies" . . . . . Joseph Meyer
Address — "Women and the Congregation" . . . . . Mrs. Benjamin Kapner

Following the Banquet Program, an Entertainment Program will be presented. Then dance to the r[h]ythm of the Red Hot Peppers.

Anniversary Services

Friday Evening, March 29th, [1935], at 7:45 O'Clock, at The Temple

Processional — "Praise Ye the Father" . . . . . Gounod
Jessie W. Lipphardt, Organist
Meditation — "Berceuse" . . . . . S[c]humann
David Daniels
Ritual for the Sabbath Eve . . . . . The Union Prayer Book
Rabbi Baruch Braunstein
Vocal Responses — Elsa Gundling Duga and Walter Schane
Greetings — . . . . . Sig.[mund] S. Front, President of the Temple
Dr. James M. Potter, President, Linsly Institute, representing the Christian Community

Vocal Solo — "Hear Ye Israel"
(from *Elijah*) . . . . . Mendelssohn
Elsa Gundling Duga
The Anniversary Sermon — "Is Judaism a Misfortune?"
Rabbi James G. Heller, of Cincinnati
Violin Solo — "Romance," from
Violin Concerto . . . . . Wieniawski
David Daniels
Anthem — "All the World Shall Come to Serve Thee"
The Congregation and Choir
Benediction

(Reception, and exhibition of mementoes, portraits, photographs, etc., in the Temple Vestry following the Services)

Saturday Morning, March 30th, [1935], at 11 O'Clock, at the Temple

Processional — "Our Song Shall
Rise" . . . . . Herman Vonberge
The Temple Children's Choir

Dorothy Baer	Fay Greenwald	Bryna Mae Frank
Phyl[l]is June Penn	Joan Good	Betty Raduziner
Annette Graff	Naomi Rabinowitz	

Mrs. David Tyler, Director

Ritual for the Sabbath
Morning . . . . . The Union Prayer Book
Rabbi Baruch Braunstein
Anthem — "Blessed Is He Who
Cometh in the Name of the
Lord" . . . . . Gounod
The Temple Children's Choir
The Sermon — "When Your Fathers Were Young"
Rabbi Baruch Braunstein
Solo — "Gloria" . . . . . Buzzi-Peccia
Mrs. David Tyler
Benediction

Anniversary Luncheon and Entertainment for the Children of the Religious School and Their Parents
Saturday Noon, March 30, [1935], in the Temple Vestry, under the Auspices of the Parent-Teachers Association

PURIM — ANNIVERSARY PLAY — "The Purim Tale" . . . . . Henry Woolf
by Class IV of the Religious School

Maurice Baer	Grace Bales	Marvin Blum
Jocelyn Cooper	Bernard Frank	David Graff
Fay Greenwald	Melvin Handelsman	Jack Kaufman
Charles Lando	Helen Mankin	Phyl[l]is June Penn
Walter Rybeck	Cora Rubin	Suzanne Schwarz

Directed by Mrs. A. L. Savin, assisted by Mrs. Maurice Kaufman

Important Events in Our History
(1917 to 1935)

1917 — June 17 — Rabbi Louis D. Gross [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Abba Hillel] Silver
1918 — May 19 — Rabbi Louis [A.] Mishkind [Mischkind] [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Louis D.] Gross
1921 — April 19 — Rabbi Hyman [A.] Iola [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Louis A.] Mis[c]hkind
1925 — June 21 — Rabbi A. [Abraham] L. Feinberg [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Hyman A.] Iola
1927 — May 20 — Rabbi Charles E. Shulman [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Abraham L.] Feinberg
1931 — July 13 — Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Charles E.] Shulman
1934 — July 23 — Rabbi Baruch Braunstein [was] elected to succeed Rabbi [Mordecai M.] Thurman
1935 — March 27, 29, and 30 — The Anniversary Celebration of the completion of 85 years of Temple activity.

Past Officers of the Temple
(1917 to 1938)

Presidents

Moses Sonneborn — 1915–1919
Louis Horkheimer — 1919–1923
Leon B. Stein — 1923–1930
Sidney Reichart — 1930–1931
Samuel Good — 1931–1932
Sigmund S. Front — 1932–1935
Sydney S. Good — 1935–1937
D. Milton Gutman — from 1938 on

Vice Presidents

Eugene M. Baer — 1915–1918
Leo Wolf — 1919–1923
Louis Kraft — 1923–1926
Alex Reichblum — 1926–1930
Samuel Good — 1930–1931
Irwin H. Baer — 1932–1935
Simon Penn — 1935–1937
Irwin H. Baer — from 1938 on

Secretaries

August Duga — 1911–1918
Charles H. Jacobs — 1918–1923
Ben F. Baer — 1923–1938

Treasurers

Herbert O. Baer — 1912–1922
S. K. Frank — 1922–1931
D. Milton Gutman — 1931–1938
Ernest S. Horkheimer — from 1938 on

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of Temple Le Shem [Leshem] Shomayim
Wheeling, W. Va.

Originally Printed in 1921
Revised to March 1st, 1939

Constitution and By-Laws

Article I.

NAME AND MODE OF WORSHIP.

Section 1. The name of the Congregation shall be Le Shem [Leshem] Shomayim.

Section 2. The Congregation is organized according to the laws of the State of West Virginia, and the Trustees' names are entered on the records in the books of the Clerk of the County Court, as Trustees of this Congregation.

Section 3. The mode of worship shall be according to the custom of American Israelites as adopted by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Article II.

OBJECTS.

Its objects shall be:

Section 1. The establishment and maintenance of a Synagogue for the purpose of divine worship according to the Jewish faith.

Section 2. The organization and support of a school for training in the principles of the Jewish religion and other branches of general education consistent therewith.

Section 3. The ownership of a tract of land within the County of Ohio, State of West Virginia, for the purpose of laying out and perpetually maintaining a cemetery in connection with the said association.

Article III.

ADMINISTRATION.

Section 1. The administration of the affairs of this Congregation shall be vested in a Board of eleven Trustees, and President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. The secretary shall only serve upon and be a member of such Board of Trustees so long as he shall serve without remuneration. In the event a Secretary shall serve without remuneration, he shall be elected from among the Congregation and shall replace a trustee whose term has expired or whose office is vacant.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall have full charge of the Cemetery as heretofore provided for.

Article IV.

MEETINGS.

Section 1. There shall be one annual Congregational meeting during the month of April or May of each year.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Congregation may be called at any time by the Board of Trustees, or by the President, or upon the written request of fifteen members, stating the purpose of such meeting. In case the President refuses or neglects to call such meeting within ten days, the Vice-President shall; and if the Vice-President refuses to do so, any three members of the Board of Trustees shall have the right to call the meeting.

Section 3. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meetings of the Congregation.

Section 4. All meetings of the Congregation shall be held in the Temple unless otherwise provided.

Article V.

[THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES]

Section 1. There shall at all times be a total of eleven Trustees whose terms of office shall be as follows: two for the term of four

years, two for the term of three years, three for the term of two years, and four for the term of one year.

At the regular annual Congregational meeting the expired or vacant offices of the Trustees shall be elected and filled by a vote of those members present.

The persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be the Trustees for the longest term, and those receiving a lesser amount of the votes cast shall be elected to the shorter terms, etc.

Section 2. At the same said regular annual meeting there shall be elected, for the term of one year each, a President, a Vice-President, and a Treasurer, who shall be voted for separately for the respective offices.

The President, the Vice-President, and the Treasurer, together with the eleven Trustees, shall constitute the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. The President of the Temple Sisterhood shall, by virtue of her office, automatically become a member of the Board of Trustees of the Temple with all the rights, powers, and duties appertaining; to serve without the necessity of election for the period of her term as President of the said Temple Sisterhood.

Section 4. The above named officers of the Congregation shall be chosen by ballot, a majority of the whole number of votes cast being necessary for a choice; if no choice is made on the first ballot, the lowest candidate shall be dropped, and the same course [shall be] adopted in every subsequent ballot until a choice is made.

Section 5. Should a vacancy occur in any office, the Board of Trustees shall have [the] power to fill the same until the next annual meeting of the Congregation, and at such meeting the vacancy shall be filled, as per Section 4 of this article.

Section 6. The Officers and Trustees elected shall enter on [upon] their respective duties on the first day of July succeeding the date of their election.

Section 7. Every member, male or female, over the age of twenty-one years and in good standing, shall be eligible to [for] office.

Article VI.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The President.

Section 1. It is the duty of the President to preside at every meeting, execute every law, sign all warrants on the treasurer, appoint all committees, (when not otherwise provided for,) sign all official documents, [and] cast the deciding vote on all questions in which there may be an equal division of votes, except in the election of officers and appeals from his decision. He shall, by and with the advice of the Trustees, have the superintendence of all religious matters in the Congregation and of all the ceremonies in the Temple, except as herein otherwise provided for.

Section 2. He shall appoint the representatives from the Congregation, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees, to all bodies or committees, wherein the Congregation may be entitled to representation.

Section 3. The President shall issue permits for burial to non-members and charge therefor such sum as he may deem proper (no charge to exceed ten dollars) and he shall pay the same to the Treasurer of the Congregation and take his receipt therefor.

Section 4. The President shall have power to remit all or any part of [the] above charges, should conditions so warrant.

Section 5. The President shall, upon assuming office or as soon thereafter as is convenient, appoint any or all committees which he shall deem necessary for the proper conduct of the activities of the Temple.

Section 6. He shall be the custodian of all books, bonds, and deeds, and other papers belonging to the Congregation, except such as are required to be in the keeping of other officers, and shall, if required, submit them to the inspection of the Board of Trustees or [of the] Congregation, at any of their meetings, and [he] shall deliver the same to his successor in office at the expiration of his term.

The Vice-President.

Section 7. The Vice-President shall exercise the power[s] and perform the duties of the President in case of [the] death, resignation, absence, or other incapacity of the President.

The Secretary.

Section 8. He [the Secretary] shall attend all meetings of the Congregation and Board of Trustees; keep a correct record of all the proceedings of the meetings and keep a correct account with all the members.

Section 9. He shall make out all notices that may be required and send the same by mail or messenger.

Section 10. He shall attest all papers, documents, or orders emanating from the Congregation or the Board of Trustees when properly signed by the President.

Section 11. He shall be custodian of the seal of the Congregation, and attach the same to all documents emanating from the Congregation or Board of Trustees.

Section 12. He shall at all Board of Trustees meetings report upon the status of the membership in regard to dues. He shall likewise report at the regular Annual Congregational meeting.

Section 13. He shall receive for his services the amount voted to him by the Board of Trustees.

Section 14. His books shall at all times be open for inspection by the President or Board of Trustees.

Section 15. At the expiration of his term, he shall deliver to his successor, when duly qualified, all money and other properties, including the seal of the Congregation and all books and papers, which may be in his possession.

The Treasurer.

Section 16. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all money due the Congregation and give receipt therefor, and all money so received shall be deposited in the name of the Congregation, in such bank or banks as the Board of Trustees may direct or sanction.

Section 17. He shall pay all orders, properly countersigned by the President and Secretary, and keep a proper record of the same.

Section 18. He shall report to the Board of Trustees at any or all meetings upon his accounts, collections, and the financial condition of the Temple; he shall likewise report at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Section 19. At the expiration of his term of office he shall deliver to his successor all moneys, books, and papers belonging to the Congregation and take the receipt of the Board of Trustees for the same.

Article VII.

TRUSTEES.

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall have the entire control and management of the affairs of the Congregation and cemeteries; shall adopt and carry out all measures and proceedings necessary to promote the interest thereof, unless otherwise herein provided; shall hold all officers and members to their respective duties toward the Congregation; shall keep accurate record of their proceedings; and shall submit a detailed report of their proceedings and of the standing committees, to the Congregation at its annual meeting.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once in every sixty days, at which meeting they shall audit all bills and transact all business that may come before them.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees may borrow money for or on behalf of the Congregation and give, as evidence thereof, the due bill, promissory note, or certificate of indebtedness of the Congregation, in its name and under its corporate seal.

Section 4. The Board of Trustees may direct expenditures for all Congregational and Cemetery purposes, other than that for the compensation for [the] Rabbi's services.

Section 5. The Board of Trustees shall examine all applications for membership and pass upon the same. All applications for membership must be made in writing to the Board of Trustees and must be accompanied by three months' dues. Said applica-

tion, however, shall not be accepted for a period of less than one year.

Section 6. The Board of Trustees shall have power to remit any portion of dues and assessments of whatever kind there may be levied against any member, if in their judgment they deem best; also to remit the whole debt of a member who has been a member of this Congregation for five years or more.

Section 7. They shall recommend the salary of the Rabbi for [the] term [for which he is] elected, subject to the approval of the Congregation.

Section 8. It shall be their duty to select such employees as may be necessary and fix their duties and compensation.

Section 9. The majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 10. The Board of Trustees shall have power to create and organize such auxiliary and contributing organizations, for [the] membership or otherwise, as in its discretion it may deem advisable, with full power to change, alter and amend the privileges incident thereto or expressly granted.

Section 11. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to authorize the collection of funds on Yom Kippur for [the] Relief Fund and such other purposes as they may decide upon.

Article VIII.

[STANDING COMMITTEES.]

Paragraph A. The Committee on the Choir.

Section 1. It shall be their duty to make all necessary rules and regulations for the government [management] of the choir, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, and the choir shall be under their control.

Paragraph B. The Committee on the Religious School.

Section 1. Its members shall visit the school frequently and watch its progress. The Rabbi shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.

Section 2. They shall collect from non-members or non-residents the fee of ten dollars per year for each child attending [the] Religious School (except where, according to their judgment, the parents are unable to pay), and pay such fees to the Secretary of the Congregation.

Section 3. It shall be their duty to make all regulations necessary for the government [management] of the School, including employment of teachers and adoption of [the] course of study. It shall determine the amount of compensation to be paid the Religious School teachers, subject to confirmation by the Board of Trustees, and shall submit a report of its proceedings at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Paragraph C. The Committee on Membership.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of this committee to promote such activities as shall tend to increase the membership of the Congregation, as well as to cultivate the spirit of fellowship among its members.

Paragraph D. The House Committee.

Section 1. At least three of the members of this committee shall be members selected from the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. It shall be their duty to see that the Temple and furniture are kept in good and clean condition, and if any repairs or improvements shall become necessary, to report to the Board of Trustees.

Paragraph E. The Committee on the Cemetery.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of this committee to attend to all business pertaining to the cemetery, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Paragraph F. The Committee on Auditing.

Section 1. It shall be their duty [the duty of the members of this committee] to examine and audit the books of the Secretary and Treasurer, at least once a year, and [they] shall render their report in writing to the Board of Trustees.

Paragraph G. The Committee on Equalization.

Section 1. Its duties shall be to adjust the matter of dues paid and to be paid by the members.

Paragraph H. The Budget Committee.

Section 1. The duty of this committee shall be to examine all items of income and expense and further to prorate and set up a budget for the Temple, yearly.

Paragraph I. The Committee on Community Welfare.

Section 1. The duties of this committee shall be to cooperate and work in harmony with all desirable civic and community projects, to effect a better understanding and to promote good will between the Temple and other organizations and peoples of this City, County, and State.

Article IX.

MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. All applications for new membership shall be accepted for a period of not less than one year. The said applicant is liable for one year['s] dues, dating from the time of his election to membership.

Section 2. A member, unless herein otherwise provided, shall have the right to vote on all questions at the meetings of the Congregation.

Section 3. Men and women are eligible to membership, enjoying equal rights and the privilege to hold [of holding] office according to Article 5, Section 7.

Section 4. Junior membership may be granted to young men and women between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, as hereinafter provided for.

Section 5. The privileged family of a member as recognized by these By-Laws shall consist of his wife, his sons until they are eighteen years of age, and his daughters until they are married or until they are self-supporting, provided [that] they are over

the age of eighteen. Provided further that nonselfsupporting students are excepted.

Section 6. A widow whose husband was a member in good standing at the time of his death shall enjoy the same privileges as a member's wife and her children the same privileges as a member's children; that is to say, a widow while she remains unmarried, her sons until they attain the age of eighteen or until they marry or are selfsupporting.

Section 7. The Board of Trustees may reduce or remit the dues of such widow.

Article X.

DUES AND ASSESSMENTS.

Section 1. The annual minimum dues of resident married members shall be Forty ($40.00) Dollars, payable in quarterly installments in advance, and for single resident members Twenty-Five ($25.00) Dollars, payable likewise in advance. Any exceptions to this rule shall be referred to the Equalization Committee for action and determination.

Section 2. The annual dues of resident female members shall be no less than Ten Dollars ($10.00), payable in quarterly installments in advance.

Section 3. The annual dues of voluntary male and female junior membership, between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, shall be Ten Dollars ($10.00), payable in quarterly installments in advance. Junior Members shall have the right to attend all meetings, but without vote.

Section 4. Members paying in excess of these sums shall pay at their present rate. If, in the discretion of the Board of Trustees, any member shall be deemed as not doing his reasonable financial duty toward the Congregation, it shall be their duty to refer such matter to the Committee of Equalization for their [its] determination, who in turn shall report their findings to the Board for final action.

Section 5. There shall be no reserved seats; pews shall be open to all who attend. Seats will be distributed on the basis of first come, first served.

Section 6. Non-resident members shall pay such dues as shall annually be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Section 7. In case any member shall be in default in dues for the period of six months, the Board of Trustees shall have the right, after thirty days' notice from the Secretary, to suspend such members, so in default, if, in their judgment, it is deemed proper to do so. Reinstatement can only be had and made by payment of all dues owing at the time of suspension to the date of reinstatement. Provided, however, [that] the Board of Trustees for cause shown may waive this condition of reinstatement.

Article XI.

CHARGES AND TRIALS.

Section 1. Any member of this Congregation whose conduct may render him or her unworthy of membership in the Congregation may, upon charges and specifications being duly preferred in writing and signed by at least three members in good standing, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees, be suspended or expelled upon due hearing.

Section 2. An appeal from such determination shall lie to [be in the hands of?] the Congregation.[1]

Section 3. Upon receipt of such appeal, the President may call a special meeting within two weeks thereafter and present the appeal to said meeting for action. It shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present at such meeting to reverse or modify the decision of the Board of Trustees.

Section 4. In case charges are preferred by three members against a member of the Board of Trustees, [a] member of [the] Congregation, or the Rabbi, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a committee of at least three members of the Congregation,

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[1] The phrase "shall lie to" would appear to be a Germanism, presumably (when the original Constitution was translated into English) translated carelessly and literally from the original constitution of the Congregation, and perhaps as the "translation" of the German word *obliegen*; surprisingly enough, the Germanistic phrase was permitted to remain in the revision of 1939. At any rate, the Germanisms of this latest Constitution of 1939 indicate the strong original flavor and componency of the congregation.

whose duty it shall be to examine into the charges, and send the accused a copy of the charges.

Section 5. The committee shall examine witnesses for both parties, shall permit the accused and accusers to be present, and shall submit a report of [the] testimony, together with their conclusions, to the Board of Trustees.

Section 6. If such charges are sustained by the committee, the Board of Trustees shall call, within ten days, a special meeting of the Congregation; provided [that] there is not a general meeting to take place within four weeks after [the] receipt of the report of the committee, the members of the Congregation to consider an[d] act upon the case. In the meantime, the Board of Trustees shall have the power to suspend the accused from office or membership.

Article XII.

CEMETERY.

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall have charge of the Cemetery, and the President shall appoint a committee to manage the affairs of the Cemetery.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Cemetery Committee to keep the grounds in good order and repairs [repair].

Section 3. The Cemetery Committee shall, by and with the approval of the Board of Trustees, employ a Sexton for the Cemetery, whose salary shall not exceed Five Hundred and Forty Dollars per annum.

Section 4. The Committee shall have the power, if they deem it necessary, to grant the right of burial for [of] indigent Israelites free of cost.

Section 5. A member of the Temple may acquire a lot upon application to the Cemetery Committee.

Section 6. No person who does not conform to the Jewish Faith shall have the privilege of burial in any lot or cemetery [in any lot of the cemetery?].

Section 7. The purchaser of a lot shall have no right to sell or give away his lot to a non-member, to [a] non-conformist to the Jewish Faith.

Section 8. The above two Sections, 6 and 7, shall be inserted (as [a] contract between the Cemetery Association and the purchaser), in the deed.

Section 9. The expense incurred in deeding the property shall be paid out of the funds of the Cemetery Association, and the recording of the deeds shall be paid [for] by the purchaser of the lot.

Section 10. The money derived from the sale of lots shall be a separate fund under the control of the Cemetery Association, who [which] shall use such money only for the improvement and enlargement of the present cemetery, subject to the approval of the Congregation.

Section 11. The Board of Trustees shall, through the Secretary, render a bill on July 1st of each year to all owners of lots, for Five Dollars for each lot, which amount shall be paid annually in advance and which shall be used for defraying the necessary expenses for the upkeep of the cemetery. A charge of Three Dollars a year, payable likewise, shall be made for each grave which is separate and apart from private lots.

All funds so received shall be placed in a Cemetery Fund.

Article XIII.

USES OF THE TEMPLE.

Section 1. The auditorium of the Temple shall be used only for the Divine purposes of the Congregation, [such as] marriages and funerals of the members or their families, and such other purposes as the Board of Trustees may grant [the] same for.

Section 2. The use of the auditorium of the Temple may be granted by the Trustees to any denomination of any recognized Church in case the same should be temporarily deprived of its place of worship. This privilege can be given for no longer [a] period than six months, and the hours of Divine Service shall not conflict. The Trustees of the Church to whom this privilege is granted shall see to the cleaning of the edifice after their worship, but no other remuneration shall be demanded.

Section 3. The auditorium of the Temple may be used for a

meeting of patriotic purpose, for the benefit of the City, State, or Nation, never in a partisan spirit, also as a domicile in case of fire, flood, and as a refuge for the help of all citizens.

Section 4. Permission may also be granted by the Trustees to any strictly charitable non-sectarian organization for memorial service.

Section 5. On all special occasions mentioned the Trustees shall be represented, and in case of emergency the representative shall have executive power.

Article XIV.

THE RABBI — ELECTION, DUTIES.

Section 1. The election of a Rabbi shall take place at the Annual Congregational meeting, and in the event [that] no choice be made at that time, the election shall be postponed to a date agreed upon by those present, and so continued from time to time until a choice is made.

Section 2. The term of the Rabbi shall commence on the first day of July next succeeding his election, and shall be for a term of one year, unless otherwise recommended by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Preceding the election of [a] Rabbi, the Board of Trustees shall present in writing one name for election, but any member has the right to present the name of a candidate in writing or orally, and all proper applications shall be put in nomination.

Section 4. A majority of the votes of the whole number cast is necessary for a choice, and in case of no choice on [the] first ballot, [the Congregation shall] proceed as in Article V, Section 4.

Section 5. Should a vacancy occur in [the] office of Rabbi, the Board of Trustees shall have [the] power to fill [the] same until the next annual meeting of the Congregation, and at such time the vacancy shall be filled.

Section 6. The Board of Trustees shall recommend, at their meeting prior to the election of a Rabbi, the salary of the same for the ensuing term, subject to the approval of the Congregation.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the Rabbi to be at the Temple at a time specified by the President for such regular and Holiday services as may be designated by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. He shall officiate at the funeral[s] of deceased members, or members of his family.

Section 9. He shall not allow any person to officiate for him without the permission of the President.

Section 10. He shall not be absent from the Temple on any Sabbath or Holiday without the permission of the President, and should he demand leave of absence, the same [the application] must be made to the President, who may grant such leave.

Section 11. He shall keep [hold] Religious School at such time and hour as the School Committee may designate.

Section 12. He shall report in writing the standing of the Religious School and everything pertaining to the said School to the Board of Trustees two weeks prior to the regular or general meetings of the Congregation.

Section 13. He shall be subject to the rules and regulations in regard to the Religious School as adopted by [the] Religious School Committee.

Section 14. A vacation may be granted the Rabbi, the duration of which shall be decided upon by the said Board.

Article XV.

RITUAL.

Section 1. The Board of Trustees and Rabbi shall constitute the Ritual Committee, but no radical change in the "Ritual" can be introduced without the consent of the Congregation at a regular meeting.

Article XVI.

THE SCHOOL FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Section 1. The school for religious instruction shall be under the supervision and management of a Committee appointed by the President by and with the consent of the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the said Committee to make all regulations necessary for the government of said school and to visit said school regularly at stated periods. They shall expend and disburse the moneys appropriated by the Board of Trustees for the maintenance of the school.

Section 3. The Rabbi shall be the supervisor of the Religious School, and may, with the consent of the Religious School Committee, designate an active superintendent for the school. The Rabbi shall set up and supervise the curriculum of the school.

Section 4. The Rabbi shall have exclusive control over the discipline of the said school, and shall promptly enforce the rules and regulations of the said Committee.

Section 5. The said Committee shall report annually, to the Board of Trustees, on the condition of [the] said school, together with such recommendations as they may deem worthy of adoption.

Article XVII.

SALE OF [THE] TEMPLE AND REAL ESTATE.

Section 1. Should the occasion arise for the sale or other disposition to be made of the Temple, it must be done according to the laws of the State of West Virginia, and under such conditions as the Congregational meeting called for this purpose may determine.

Section 2. The title of all real estate now owned or which shall hereafter be acquired by the Congregation shall stand in the name of the Congregation as incorporated.

Section 3. No purchase or sale of real estate by or for the Congregation shall be made until after the Board of Trustees shall have ascertained all of the material facts in relation thereto and shall have submitted the same to the Congregation at a special meeting to be called for the purpose, notice of the same to be given, to each member entitled to vote, not less than three days prior to such meeting. Such notice shall clearly state the object of such meeting. It shall require at least one-half of all

members in good standing to take action and a vote of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting to authorize any sale or purchase.

Section 4. If, at the first and second special meetings called as hereinbefore provided, no quorum shall appear, a third meeting shall be called; notice of such meetings shall state the object of said meetings and shall call attention to the provisions of the By-Laws in relation thereto. At this third special meeting, if an ordinary quorum shall be present, the Congregation may by a two-thirds vote authorize the Executive Board [the Board of Trustees?] to purchase or sell any real estate and to do all matters and things pertaining thereto.

Section 5. This Congregation shall have [the] power to mortgage or sell in fee simple any of its property, excepting the burial ground, whenever such sale or mortgage may be deemed proper.

Article XVIII.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Section 1. At least thirty days preceding the Annual Congregational meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of five members, not more than two of whom shall be members of the Board of Trustees. This Committee shall present in writing, at the annual meeting of the Congregation, a list of nominees for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, [and] Treasurer, and a like list of nominees for the Trustees whose terms have expired and whose offices are open to election at that particular Annual Congregational meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall propose only one nominee for each office to be filled and elected. This shall in no way prevent the nomination of other members for any office, at the meeting, and the President shall, before submitting the list proposed by the Nominating Committee, inform the meeting that any nominations from the members present will be accepted and are in order.

Article XIX.

AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Any proposed alteration[s] or amendments to these laws shall be made in writing, and shall lay [lie] over for four successive weeks before final action is taken thereon. All members of the Congregation shall be notified of the said alterations and amendments, and it shall take the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present to adopt the same.

Section 2. These laws shall be in force on and after the date of their adoption, and all former laws are hereby repealed.

Article XX.

Section 1. Questions of parliamentary law shall be decided in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and procedure.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 — Calling [the] Roll of Officers and Members.
2 — Reading of [the] Minutes.
3 — Reports of [the] Secretary, Treasurer, and Rabbi.
4 — Reports of Standing Committees.
5 — Reports of Special Committees.
6 — Applications for Membership.
7 — Communications.
8 — Unfinished Business.
9 — New Business.
10 — Payment of Bills.
11 — Election of Officers.

GENERAL LAWS.

Religious services shall be held on Friday evenings at 7:45; should Saturday morning services be held, they should begin at 10:30 o'clock.

All members attending religious services shall endeavor to be in the Synagogue when services begin. Should members arrive

during the opening prayer, they shall wait at the door until the prayer is completed and [the] Congregation seated, before entering.

Every qualified member attending meetings shall vote unless excused by the meeting.[1] If refusing [If he or she refuses], he or she shall be counted in the affirmative on the question at issue.

[At] all meetings, unless otherwise provided, the majority of members present and voting shall decide the question.

In all cases of appeal the matter shall remain in suspension until the final decision.

1939

(From the Files and Records of Rabbi George B. Lieberman)

The 90th Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation

[December 7, 1939]

(The following is taken from a Wheeling newspaper item of the time, as well as from other materials and sources of the year mentioned above [1939].)

[December 8, 1939]

"Distinguished Guests in Congratulatory Addresses at [the] Dinner Which Marks [the] 90th Anniversary of [the Eoff [Street] Temple

"Covers Laid for 175 Guests at [the] Dinner Given in [the] Windsor Hotel Thursday as Part of the Anniversary Celebration

"Prominent clergymen and educators representing Protestant denominations and the Catholic church in the state and city shared honors at a dinner Thursday night which was the first in a series of events arranged in commemoration of the ninetieth

[1] By the members present at the meeting? By the officer presiding at the meeting?

anniversary of the founding of the Eoff Street Temple [Congregation Leshem Shomayim]. The dinner took place in the Windsor Hotel, and was followed by a speaking program in which the distinguished guests extended congratulations and best wishes to the Temple minister, Rabbi George B. Lieberman, and his congregation upon the auspicious occasion.

"Congratulatory Messages

"Many interesting congratulatory messages were also received by Rabbi Lieberman, including one from the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and another from the Honorable Homer [A.] Holt, governor of West Virginia. Other distinguished civic and religious leaders also expressed best wishes. Mayor John J. Mathison of the city, who had planned to attend the banquet, but was called to Charleston unexpectedly, sent a congratulatory note in which he expressed the hope for continued growth of the congregation, commenting upon the fine spirit of citizenship as exhibited by those affiliated with the Temple and the remarkable philanthropic work sponsored by the Temple organizations.

"Governor Holt Sends [a] Letter

"Governor Homer A. Holt, in his letter, dated December 4, 1939, wrote as follows to Rabbi George B. Lieberman:

" 'Charleston, W. Va.
" 'Executive Department, State of West Virginia.
" 'December 4, 1939.

" 'Justified indeed is the joy and pride with which you and the members of your congregation approach the ninetieth anniversary of the existence of the Eoff Street Temple.

" 'Some of those in your congregation have played an important part in the development and growth of Wheeling and West Virginia. Others, sons and daughters of the pioneers, are leaders in the civic and business life of today and are looking forward to the accomplishments of the future.

" 'Ours is indeed a happy land where every man may speak with pride of his church or temple and where no man need neglect his worship or practice it in secret.

" 'This, however, is not so much a result of our country's greatness as a cause of it. Without the freedom of religion, speech, and press, our nation would be at least closer to the sad plight of some of the less fortunate and less enlightened nations embroiled in or threatened with Europe's catastrophe.[1]

" 'Permit me to congratulate you on the success of your Temple and to wish for it continued growth and success.

" 'Please extend to the members of your congregation and their guests my best wishes when they gather at the banquet table in the Windsor Hotel on the night of December seventh [1939].

" 'Very respectfully yours,
" 'HOMER A. HOLT,
" 'Governor.' "

"A copy of the message sent to the local Congregation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt follows:

" 'Warm Springs, Georgia.
" 'November 24, 1939.

" 'Dear Rabbi Lieberman:

" 'It gives me great pleasure to send hearty congratulations to the congregation of Eoff Street Temple on the happy occasion of the Ninetieth Anniversary of its founding.

" 'I trust that for long years to come the Temple will be the center of rich spiritual life which will exemplify to the community the highest teaching of the ancient culture of Israel.

" 'Very sincerely yours,
" 'FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.' "

"All of the former rabbis at the Temple, now residing in other cities, were represented by messages of special greeting, and letters were also read from Jewish and non-Jewish organizations."

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[1] The Second World War.

"Distinguished Guests

"Places of honor at the anniversary dinner were arranged for the Right Reverend Monsignor E. E. Weber, V. G. Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Wheeling; Dr. Roy McCluskey, president of West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Dr. Wallace Fleming, vice president of West Virginia Wesleyan College, at Buckhannon; the Rev. W. H. McKinney, pastor of the First Christian Church, and president of the Wheeling Ministerial Association; Dr. James E. Scott, minister at Thomson Methodist Church; Rabbi George B. Lieberman; and Mrs. Simon Penn, president of the Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood.

"D. Milton Gutman, president of the Temple Congregation, was the toastmaster.

"Program of Addresses

"Each of the honor guests spoke briefly at the conclusion of the dinner. In extending congratulations and best wishes to the Temple Congregation, Monsignor Weber spoke of his many enjoyable contacts with the Jewish citizens of the community during his years of religious service as a member of the Cathedral clergy.

"The Rev. Mr. McKinney, in his congratulatory address, emphasized those factors which unite a congregational organization.

"Dr. McCluskey spoke concerning the place of education and the part West Virginia Wesleyan College is playing in the spreading of religious and democratic ideals, while Dr. Fleming limited his remarks to the role of friendship between man and man.

"Dr. Scott, during his talk, stressed the common bonds which unite all religions.

"Mrs. Penn outlined the many splendid achievements brought about by the women's organizations.

"All of the speakers united in expressing their appreciation of the excellent work which Rabbi George B. Lieberman has accomplished, not only in his congregation, but in the com-

munity, since assuming the Temple charge in 1936. Comment was also made upon his scholarly attainments and eloquence.

"Rabbi Lieberman Responds

"Rabbi Lieberman, in responding to these expressions, spoke briefly of the history of his people, pointing out that the Jewish race has survived persecutions through the centuries because of spiritual values which it possesses and the noble aspirations to which as individuals each is dedicated. 'Only in America,' he commented, 'under blessed democracy, is it possible for such an occasion as this to bring together priest, rabbi, minister, and educator.' In conclusion, he appealed to his congregation to work together for the common aim of a better community and a better world.

"175 Attend

"Covers were laid for 175 at Thursday night's dinner. Cut flowers and lighted tapers were used in decorating the banquet tables, which were arranged in the hotel ballroom. The invocation was made by Rabbi Lieberman, and Dr. Scott gave the benediction at the close of the program.

"An informal recreation as well as dancing had been arranged for the pleasure of the guests at the close of the speaking program.

"This evening Dr. Julian Morgenstern, president of the Hebrew Union College, at Cincinnati, Ohio, will deliver the anniversary sermon at a religious service to be held in the Eoff Street Temple, as the second anniversary program of the week."

"Letter of Congratulation from John J. Mathison, Mayor of Wheeling

" 'Wheeling,
" 'December 6, 1939.

" 'My dear Rabbi: [George B. Lieberman]

" 'I regret that since accepting your most gracious invitation for Thursday, December 7 [1939], an important meeting of city officials and prominent citizens of Wheeling has been arranged

for that same day in Charleston, hence my inability to be present at your Fellowship Banquet, inaugurating the celebration of your [that of the Eoff Street Temple] Ninetieth Anniversary.

" 'Because of the high regard which I have always had for the people of your faith, perhaps no other invitation received by me since assuming the duties of Mayor has given me the same feeling of appreciation as did yours of November 20th.

" 'Having lived in Wheeling practically all of my life, it has been my privilege and pleasure to know personally a great many of your present congregation and also many of their forbears, who have passed on to the Hereafter. From early childhood and throughout my adult life, my acquaintance with them has instilled in me a deep sense of appreciation of the high calibre of citizenship, ability, intelligence, and integrity possessed by them. Their spirit of charity in behalf of their less fortunate fellowman, expressed as I well know in a material way, adds a brilliant jewel to their crown of accomplishment.

" 'The history of the City of Wheeling is replete with examples of the civic mindedness and of the generosity of the Jewish people, and today, as it has been in the past, no worthwhile civic endeavor is complete without representation of your people. Wheeling is greatly indebted to them for the physical, the financial, the cultural, and the moral improvement of our community.

" 'My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you as the pastor and to your congregation generally, on this your anniversary. Under your leadership, may your people throughout the years to come, by their continued actions and examples of the past, eloquently demonstrate that there is no finer type of Americanism than that exemplified by the Jewish people of Wheeling. . . .

" 'John J. Mathison,
" 'Mayor of the City of Wheeling.' "

"Telegrams and Letters of Congratulation and Greeting

"Telegraphic or correspondence greetings were received from the following former rabbis of the Eoff Street Congregation:

Abba Hillel Silver, of Cleveland
Harry Levi (of Boston)
Morris S. Lazaron (of Baltimore)
Hyman Iola (of Tucson, Ariz.)
Abraham L. Feinberg (of Denver)
Abram Brill (of Shreveport, La.)
Charles E. Shulman (of Glencoe, Ill.)
Mordecai M. Thurman (of Wilmington, N. C.)
and from Hannchen Bonnheim Rosenwald, daughter of Rabbi Benjamin A. Bonnheim."

"Sketch of the History of the Eoff Street Temple Congregation, of Wheeling
"Written for the 90th Anniversary Celebration in December, 1939

"The history of the Eoff Street Temple Congregation reflects the history of the Jewish people in America. Records are not available [as to] just exactly when the first Jewish citizens settled in Wheeling. The records possessed by the Temple date back only to the year 1865. The first to study these records was Rabbi Harry Levi, now in Boston, Massachusetts, who served the Wheeling congregation for fourteen years [1897–1911].

"However, enough evidence is available to mark 1849 as the year when the first efforts were made to organize the Jewish inhabitants into a denominational community of worship. There must have been religious services prior to that year, a conclusion based on the fact that one of the residents of Wheeling in 1849 was Rabbi Meyer Mannheim.

"The first step towards congregational organization was the founding of the Cemetery Association. In need of their own burial place to take care of the dead and to hold a funeral service according to their own ritual, those early settlers were forced to form a religious body of their own. This Association purchased the Mount Wood Cemetery which, up to 1888, was held by the City of Wheeling in trust for the congregation. The first to be laid to rest in that cemetery was Rabbi Mannheim, on August 9, 1849.

"From that year to 1856 the small Congregation held religious services during the most solemn holidays in a small room on the third floor of a house, [at the] corner of Fourteen[th] (then called Quincy [Street]) and Main Streets. The name of the Congregation was Leshem Shomayim. It was in 1856 that the Congregation secured and duly elected Rabbi Weil as their minister.

"Originally this Congregation worshipped according to the traditional Orthodox form. Influenced by the Reform Movement in Judaism, which had as its aim the adjustment of the Jewish religion to modern thought and to the American way of life, the Congregation, through their minister, Rabbi [S.] Kuttenauer, began to take steps, in 1865, towards the adoption of Reform Judaism. During his ministry, many reforms were introduced both in the forms of worship and in the organizational life of the community. In the history of the Congregation, services were held in the following languages: German, Hebrew, and English.

"By 1865 the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society was organized, known today as the Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood. The first largest contribution towards the building of the present Temple was made by this women's organization in the year 1888. And up to this very day the Sisterhood continues to participate generously in all philanthropies. The organization raises funds and makes allocations to Jewish and non-Jewish causes of local and national character. It is headed by a President, a Board, and different Committees. During the present term [1939–1940] the Sisterhood's President is Mrs. Simon Penn.

"Until the Temple was erected the Congregation worshipped in different quarters: in the Melodeon Hall, in the present Hub Building, and in the Odd Fellows' Temple. In 1888 a Building Committee was appointed, composed of the following members: Morris Horkheimer, Emanuel Emsheimer,[1] Emanuel Buckman,

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[1] As regards the name *Emanuel* Emsheimer, it is very probable that here, as well as in further mentions of *Emanuel* Emsheimer in the following pages, *Emanuel* represents an inadvertent error for *Emil* Emsheimer, who is often referred to, in the minutes of the congregation and in other congregational records, as *E.* Emsheimer. In all likelihood, no one by the name of *Emanuel* Emsheimer was ever a member of

Samuel Kraft, Samuel S. Bloch, and Henry Jacobs. The present Temple building was dedicated in the spring of 1892, with B. A. Bonheim [Benjamin Aaron Bonnheim] the first Rabbi to minister in the new house of worship. In the very same year, the Congregation joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the central organization of all Reform Jewish Temples.[1]

"Beginning with Rabbi Harry Levi, who became the Temple's minister in 1897, all the Rabbis who served the Congregation, except one, were ordained at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, a world-renowned theological seminary which prepares young men in [for] the Reform Jewish ministry.

"In the course of the Temple's history many Rabbis have served the Congregation with great distinction, and many of them who are still active have become pulpiteers of world-wide recognition: Rabbi Harry Levi of Boston [died in 1944], Rabbi Abram Brill of Shreveport [died in 1943], Rabbi Morris [S.] Lazaron of Baltimore, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, Rabbi Hyman [A.] Iola of Tucson, Ariz. [died in 1941], Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg, of Denver, Rabbi Charles E. Shulman of Chicago [Glencoe, Ill.], Rabbi Mordecai [M.] Thurman of Wilmington [, N. C.], and Rabbi Baruch Braunstein of Philadelphia. In 1936, Rabbi George B. Lieberman, upon his ordination at the Hebrew Union College, accepted the call to the local pulpit.

"The Temple organization is headed by the Rabbi, by a President, and by the Board of Trustees elected by the congregation at large. The present [1939–1940] officers of the congregation are:

D. Milton Gutman, President
Irwin H. Baer, Vice President
Ernest Horkheimer, Treasurer

Congregation Leshem Shomayim or lived in Wheeling, as a member of the noteworthy Emsheimer family of that city.

[1] As has already been indicated above, the date of 1892 for the affiliation of Congregation Leshem Shomayim with the U. A. H. C. is erroneous, for according to the very records of the U. A. H. C. itself, the Wheeling Congregation "joined the Union" on May 8, 1874, having been one of the earliest Reform Jewish congregations in the entire United States to do so, and the second in the State of West Virginia.

Ben F. Baer, Secretary

Board of Trustees

Max Crone
Sigmund S. Front
Sydney Good
Louis Horkheimer
George Levenson
Joseph Meyer
Ralph Miller
Simon Penn
Mrs. Simon Penn
Charles Sonneborn, Jr.
David Tyler

"In addition to the Senior Sisterhood, there is also a Junior Sisterhood under the presidency of Miss Amelia Bachenheimer. The Congregation sponsors a religious school, of which Mrs. Ralph Miller is principal.

"Through the various organizations and committees, the Temple Congregation participates in all civic, philanthropic, and religious enterprises of the community. The Congregation makes it possible for its Rabbi to serve not only the Temple but the community at large, whenever his training and background qualify him to do so.

"The elaborate anniversary program [December, 1939] has been arranged by a special committee, appointed by the Board, and composed of Joseph Meyer, Chairman; Sydney Good, Simon Penn, Mrs. Simon Penn, and David Tyler."

1939

In 1939, the Eoff Street Temple contributed $10.00 to the Committee on Solicitation of Funds of the C. C. A. R. for its Relief Fund (*CCAR*, XLIX [1939], page 403).

1940–1941

In 1940 and in 1941 the Eoff Street Temple [Congregation] made a contribution of $10 to the above committee (*CCAR*, L [1940], page 403; LI [1941], page 353).

1942

The Eoff Street Temple Charity Fund, in 1942, gave a contribution of $10 to this same C. C. A. R. Relief Fund (*CCAR*, LII [1942], page 375).

1943 AND 1944

In 1943, the Eoff Street Temple again contributed $10.00 to this same Conference Relief Fund, through its Committee on Solicitation of Funds (*CCAR*, LIII [1943], page 274). In 1944, its contribution to this Relief Fund was $5.00 (*CCAR*, LIV [1944], page 272).

1945

In 1945, the Eoff Street Temple Religious School contributed the sum of $10.00 to the C. C. A. R. Relief Fund (*CCAR*, LV [1945], page 225).

1949

The centennial of the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim was celebrated in 1949, in the form of an observance which lasted for an entire week, and which consisted of religious services, an anniversary centennial sermon, and a banquet. At that time the president of the Congregation (1948–1949) was Sam Crone, and the president of the Congregation from 1949 to 1950 was Robert L. Levenson. M. Nathaniel Bension was the rabbi of the congregation at the time of the Centennial Observance. John Wiseman, an officer of the congregation from 1948 to 1950, also assisted in the centennial observance. The president of the Wheeling Sisterhood in 1948 to 1950 was Mrs. Sam [Irma] Crone. At the banquet, held at the McLure Hotel, which concluded the week's celebration, the guest speaker was Rabbi Charles E. Shulman, a former rabbi of the congregation (1927–1931), and at that time, as today, rabbi of the Riverdale Temple, in New York City.

1950

In 1950, the Eoff Street Temple Religious School made the last contribution to date (1959) of the Wheeling Reform congregation or community, one of $10.00, to the C. C. A. R. Relief Fund (*CCAR*, LX [1950], page 421). Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman was an annual contributor to the C. C. A. R. Relief

Fund during his rabbinate of seven years in Wheeling (1950–1957).

1955

In 1955, Congregation Leshem [L'shem] Shomayim, still retaining its membership in the U. A. H. C., had 100 contributing members. Some years before that, in the middle 1940's, it was reported that there had been a split in the congregational membership on the question of political Zionism, and that at that time a number of the members of Congregation Leshem Shomayim had broken away, or "seceded," from it and had joined other Wheeling congregations or had remained unaffiliated, thereby reducing the normally much larger membership of the congregation. By 1958–1959, apparently, the "breach" had not yet been healed, and the dissident members had not rejoined Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

1950–1957

During the seven-year term of office of Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman as minister of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, extending from 1950 to 1957, Robert L. Levenson, of the Reichart Furniture Company, was president of the congregation. Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman, who left Wheeling in the first half of 1957 to become rabbi of the newly organized Congregation Micah, in Denver, Colo., in a letter dated May 31, 1956, presented the following brief picture of the Wheeling congregation and of its history:

"Our Temple was founded in 1849, and has had rabbis ever since.[1] The Temple building was built in 1891, under the incumbency of Rabbi Bonheim.[2] He was succeeded by Rabbi Harry Levi [1897–1911]. Since then, the following have served here: Morris [S.] Lazaron, Abba Hillel Silver, Charles [E.] Shulman, Abraham L. Feinberg, Hyman [A.] Iola, Baruch

[1] There were several years of gaps, however, and in several cases intervals of several months when the congregation did not have a rabbi, as indicated above.

[2] This was Rabbi Benjamin A. Bonnheim, who served from 1888 to 1897.

Braunstein, George [B.] Lieberman, Charles [B.] Lesser, Moshay [P.] Mann, Nathaniel Ben Zion [M. Nathaniel Bension], and myself, since 1950.[1]

"The Temple grew out of the Cemetery Society, and the cemetery preceded the organization of the congregation. The Wheeling cemetery of Congregation Leshem Shomayim was incorporated on June 30, 1890. The Sisterhood was founded in 1865, and we joined the Union [of American Hebrew Congregations] in the year it was founded [1873].[2] We are now building a new Temple, for which ground was formally broken on October 31, 1955. We expect to be in the new Temple, which has been named the Woodsdale Temple [located on the Bethany Pike, in Wheeling], at the end of the year [1956].

"The total Jewish population [of Wheeling] is 250 families, and the Temple has 110 families. We have a Religious School of 75 children, and Sabbath services are held every Friday night throughout the year at 8 P.M. and on Saturday morning at 11 A.M."

1956–1957

In 1956–1957, the byname of the Eoff Street Temple was replaced by the name The Woodsdale Temple as the designation for Congregation Leshem Shomayim. The Woodsdale Temple is located on Bethany Pike, in Wheeling. The new Temple was finished and first occupied in early 1957. In 1957, Sidney Good (of L. S. Good & Co.) was serving as president of The Woodsdale Temple, succeeding Robert L. Levenson in this office.

1958–1960

In September, 1958, after one year of service by a student rabbi from the H. U. C., named Saul Rubin, William A. Rosenthall, of Brooklyn, N. Y., a recent graduate of the H. U. C. - J. I. R., was elected rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, or The Woodsdale Temple.

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[1] Rabbi Freedman inadvertently omitted from his list the following rabbis who also served Congregation Leshem Shomayim: Abram Brill, Louis D. Gross, Louis A. Mischkind, and Mordecai M. Thurman.

[2] Actually, it was in the first half of the year following its founding, i. e., on May 8, 1874, that Congregation Leshem Shomayim affiliated with the U. A. H. C.

Rabbi William A. Rosenthall served until December, 1961.

Dr. Abraham Cronbach, a professor at the Hebrew Union College, came to Wheeling on two occasions, and delivered addresses there.

The Woodsdale Temple Bulletin, still published as a monthly by the congregation, carried in its box on page 2 of its issue for mid-July, 1960 (Tammuz, 5720 [A.M.], Volume X, No. 8), the following information about the congregation and affiliated organizations at that time:

The Woodsdale Temple Bulletin
OF CONGREGATION LESHEM SHOMAYIM
EDGWOOD STREET & BETHANY PIKE
FOUNDED IN 1849

An Affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PRESIDENT.....Robert L. Levenson
VICE PRESIDENT.....Harry Robbin
SECRETARY.....Al Farer
TREASURER.....Irwin Clark
SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT.....Mrs. Irving Gardner
MEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT.....George A. Levenson
TEMPLE YOUTH PRESIDENT....Nedra Colson
RABBI.....William A. Rosenthall

PRESIDENTS OF THE CONGREGATION FROM 1955 TO 1960

Charles Perelman: 1955 to 1957
Sidney Good, Jr.: 1957 to 1959
Robert L. Levenson: 1959 to the present (re-elected in May, 1960)

NEW COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION [1960]

Choir Committee
Simon Penn, CHAIRMAN
Mrs. Larry Good
Mrs. Ralph Miller
William Wishnew
Mrs. Maurice Kaufman

Sunday School Committee
Harold Lipp, CHAIRMAN
Arthur Gross
Miss Ruth Ann Cooper
Mrs. Harry Robbin
Larry Good
Mrs. Philip Eisenberg

Membership Committee

Maurice Kaufman, CHAIRMAN
Seymour Michael
Philip Eisenberg
Mrs. Abe Lando

House Committee

Sidney Colson, CHAIRMAN
George [A.] Levenson
Mrs. Irving Gardner
Charles Stein
Dr. Robert Sonneborn (Grounds)
Mrs. Sidney Colson

Auditing Committee

Peter Front, CHAIRMAN
Marvin Franklin
Alburt Burnstein
George Goldstein

Equalization Committee

Dr. Robert Sonneborn, CHAIRMAN
Samuel Front
Charles Perelman
Harry Robbin
Samuel Good

Budget Committee

HERBERT SONNEBORN, CHAIRMAN
Irving Gardner
Harry Robbin
Louis Duga
Irwin Clark

Insurance and Investment Committee

Sidney Good, Jr., CHAIRMAN
Harry Robbin
Joseph Strauss
Charles Perelman
Charles Sonneborn

Cemetery Committee

Dr. Kermit Rosenberg, CHAIRMAN
Bernard Horkheimer
Charles Sonneborn, Jr.
Sidney Good, Jr.

Bulletin Committee

Rabbi William A. Rosenthall, CHAIRMAN
Mrs. Seymour Michael

Revision and Up-Dating of the By-Laws

Herbert Sonneborn, Jr., CHAIRMAN
Harry Robbin
Marvin Franklin
Irving Gardner

Community Welfare — Jewish Community Council

Dr. Kermit Rosenberg, CHAIRMAN
Arthur Gross
Sidney Good, Jr.
Simon Penn
Mrs. Irving Gardner
Charles Perelman

Maurice Kaufman
Rabbi William A. Rosenthall
Mrs. Alexander Wishnew
Al Farer
Charles Stein
Arnold Phillips

Memorial Plaque and Mortgage Reduction Committee

George [A.] Levenson, Chairman
George Atkin
Max Horne

[In June, 1960, the mortgage of the congregation was $60,000.]

The Woodsdale Temple Library was still in active service in 1959–1960.

In his letter to me of September 1, 1960, Rabbi William A. Rosenthall confirmed the official date of 1849 as the year of the founding of Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

Robert L. Levenson was re-elected president of Congregation Leshem Shomayim at the annual congregational meeting held on Sunday evening, May 22, 1960. Harry Robbin was elected vice president, and Al Farer and Irwin Clark were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively. At this meeting the following three new trustees of the congregation were elected for terms of three years: Dr. Robert Sonneborn, Sidney Colson, and Simon Penn. Rabbi William A. Rosenthall was re-elected rabbi of the congregation.

In 1959–1960, the Woodsdale Temple officially reported a membership of 125 family units.

1961

In September, 1961, the officers of The Woodsdale Temple (Congregation Leshem Shomayim) were:
President: Harry J. Robbin
Vice President: Herbert M. Sonneborn, Jr.
Secretary: Alexander E. Farer
Treasurer: Irwin H. Clark

The Rabbis of Congregation Leshem Shomayim

(Brief biographical sketches of all rabbis, with one or two exceptions, follow the list.)

So far as can now be ascertained, from the congregational records, from published pamphlets, and from other sources, the

following is the list (with some gaps) of those who served as rabbis of Leshem Shomayim Congregation from 1849 down to the very present (1959–1960):

The Earlier Rabbis (from 1849 to 1887)

Meyer Mannheim (1849–1852?)

Joel Eppinger (1854–1856?)

(Chazan, Shochet, and teacher. He was the only one in the history of the congregation, seemingly, who was not designated by the title of minister or rabbi.)

— Weil (1856–1859?) (I. Weil? Isaac Weil?)

Isaac Strouse (1859–1862) (also Strause or Strauss)

(It is quite possible that the Reverend Isaac Strouse, who served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling, from 1859 to 1862, was the same as the Reverend Mr. Strauss [his first name is not given in the congregational records] who served as rabbi of the Charleston, W. Va., congregation [the Hebrew Educational Society, later called B'nai Israel Congregation] for an indeterminate period before 1885.)

— Fult (1862–1865?) [Fuld] [B. L. Fould?]

S. Kuttenauer (1865–1872)

— Schwed (1872)

(His first name is now unknown. Rabbi Schwed, apparently, served for only a part of the year 1872, and left the city before the beginning of 1873. The name Schwed may be an error for Isaac Schwabe, or Schwab. *See below*, under the biographies.)

A. L. Meyer (1876 to August, 1879) (spelled also as Mayer. Alexander Mayer?)

Jacob Theodore Vogelsdorf (August, 1879, to January 1, 1880) (spelled also as Vogelsdorff)

I. [Isaac?] N. Saenger (April 1 to August 9, 1880)

Morris Sessler (November 1, 1880, to December 1, 1887)

The Later Rabbis (from 1887 to 1960)

B. A. [Benjamin Aaron] Bonnheim (April, 1888, to 1897) (often misspelled as Bonheim)

Harry Levi (1897–1911)

Abram Brill (1911–1914)
Morris S. Lazaron (1914–1915)
Abba Hillel Silver (1915–1917)
Louis D. Gross (1917–1918)
Louis A. Mischkind (1918–1921)
Hyman A. Iola (1921–1925)
Abraham L. Feinberg (1925–1927)
Charles E. Shulman (1927–1931)
Mordecai M. Thurman (1931–1934)
Baruch Braunstein (1934–1936)
George B. Lieberman (1936–1943)
Charles B. Lesser (1943–1946)

[The congregation apparently had no rabbi at all in the year from September, 1946, to September, 1947.]

Moshay P. Mann (1947–1948)
M. Nathaniel Bension (Moses N. Bension) (1948–1950)
Joseph H. Freedman (1950–1957)
Saul Rubin (1957–1958) (a student, bi-weekly, rabbi from the H. U. C.)
William A. Rosenthall (1958—December, 1961)
Martin Siegel (elected in May, 1962)

Brief Biographical Sketches of the Rabbis of Congregation Leshem Shomayim (1849 to 1960)

(arranged in chronological order)

Meyer Mannheim. Meyer Mannheim was the first rabbi of the congregation, and served from 1849 to (in all probability) 1852. He was the first person to be buried in the newly acquired Mount Wood Cemetery, perhaps in 1852. After his death, the congregation had no rabbi for at least two years, being unable, in all probability, to secure one.

Joel Eppinger. Joel Eppinger, who served from 1854 to perhaps the summer of 1856, was known as the Chazan, Shochet, and teacher of the congregation, and was not designated as its rabbi, apparently. He was living and serving in Cincinnati, in the early part of the year 1854, when he was called to Congregation Leshem Shomayim. In Cincinnati, too, he had served as a Shochet.

— WEIL. The first name of Rabbi Weil has been lost, for some strange reason or other never being mentioned in the official congregational records. It is possible that his first initial was I., and that his first name was Isaac. This early Wheeling rabbi served from 1856 to perhaps 1859.

The basis for this view that his first name was, possibly, Isaac, or that the initial of his first name was perhaps I., is a reference in *CCAR*, Volume I (1890–1891), page 120, where a Rabbi *I.* Weil, of Bradford, Pa., is listed as attending the Pittsburgh Conference (of Reform rabbis) held on November 16–18, 1885.

ISAAC STROUSE. Isaac Strouse served as the minister of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, from 1859 to 1862. His name is spelled in the congregational records, as well as in other historical sources, variously, as Strouse, Strause, and Strauss, but Strouse was, apparently, the best, and the correct, spelling of his family name. Before coming to the Wheeling congregation, he had served as the rabbi of a congregation in Cumberland, Md., and for some three years thereafter (from 1856 to September, 1859) as the rabbi of the congregation in Pottsville, Pa. In Wheeling he was elected as "the Chazan and minister of the Eoff Street congregation in Wheeling." At Pottsville, Pa., he had served, apparently, for only three years, as "teacher and Chazan and minister of the congregation," beginning in September, 1856. In David Einhorn's *Sinai* (Volume IV [October, 1859], No. 9, pages 283–284), "Mr. Strauss" is recorded as having been elected as the "teacher" of the Wheeling congregation (the name Leshem Shomayim is not mentioned in the news item in the *Sinai*), after he had served "hardly three years" with the Jewish congregation in Pottsville, Pa., to which he had been elected under a five-year contract.

In the years from 1853 on, Isaac Strouse had also served as the minister of the congregation in Wilkesbarre, Pa., and as a teacher (seemingly not as the rabbi or minister) at Rodeph Shalom Congregation, in Philadelphia. In the 1860's he served as the rabbi of a congregation in Pitts-

burgh, Pa., although it is not known where he went after leaving (undoubtedly having been discharged from) his position in Wheeling.

Isaac Strouse, like all his early predecessors and his early successors (except S. Kuttenauer) in Wheeling, was typical of the large number of rabbis and/or ministers who were permitted to serve Congregation Leshem Shomayim for only a year, or two years, or three years, before leaving, or being required to leave, and to go elsewhere, typical of the chaotic conditions prevailing in many of the American Jewish congregations before 1883, when the first graduates came out of the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati. An exception in the Wheeling congregation was provided much later only by Benjamin A. Bonnheim, who served for *ca.* the ten-year period from 1888 to 1897, and after whose term of office the tenure was longer; and another exception was provided by S. Kuttenauer, who served from 1865 to 1872. There is no evidence that any of the Wheeling rabbis before Harry Levi was ever ordained, including Benjamin A. Bonnheim, and the probability is great that Harry Levi was the first ordained rabbi whom the congregation had ever had from 1849 to 1897. With the arrival of Benjamin A. Bonnheim in 1888, and thereafter, conditions in Wheeling for rabbis were more favorable.

According to *The Occident* (Volume X [1853], page 551), Isaac Strouse (or Strause), who served as rabbi in Wheeling from 1859 to 1862, had previously served as minister in, and had been a resident of, Wilkesbarre, Pa., serving B'nai B'rith Congregation in that city. The date of the beginning of his rabbinical ministrations in Wilkesbarre is not mentioned in the news item, but his service in that city was finished in 1853, and he was then elected as teacher, or as a teacher, by Rodeph Shalom Congregation, in Philadelphia. Here, and also in Cumberland, Md., apparently in the four-year period from 1853 to 1857, he served as either teacher or rabbi, and then he served as Chazan (loosely used then in the sense also of minister) of the congregation in Pottsville, Pa., again for two years (1857–

1859), before coming to Wheeling. Isaac Strouse is mentioned in the above referred to news item as the author of the *Polyglott Pocket-Book* and as the translator into English of David Ottensosser's *History of the Jews, and Their Literature* (1853).

Five other news items contained in *The Occident* give additional data on the previous and later career of Rabbi Isaac Strouse both before and after he came to Wheeling in 1859:

XIV (1857), 547: "Pottsville, Pa. The Reverend Isaac Strouse, late of Cumberland, Maryland, has been elected Chazan of this new congregation of Pottsville, Pa."

XV (1857), 408: On September 2, 1857, Isaac Strouse was the officiant at the marriage of Reverend Emanuel Oppenheim, of Danville, Pa., to Miss Mina Durlacher, at Danville.

XV (1857), 199: Mr. Strouse, presumably the Isaac Strouse who was later to serve as rabbi of the Wheeling congregation (1859–1862), was the Chazan, in 1857, of the Hartford, Conn., congregation, where he had been serving in this capacity for at least six years already.[1]

XVI (1858), 262: On July 5, 1858, the house of the Reverend Mr. Isaac Strouse, in Pottsville, Pa., was totally destroyed by fire. He was then minister of the Pottsville congregation. His library of books, as well as the manuscripts on which he had been working for years, were destroyed by the fire. He had just cancelled his insurance, or had allowed it to expire, intending to renew his insurance with some other company. In this house, too, his daughters were carrying on a millinery business. He is declared by Isaac Leeser to be a very learned man, and no longer young. Leeser appealed for financial contributions (the only appeal on behalf of an individual Jew in the entire *Occident*) from his readers on behalf of Mr. Strouse, directing this appeal

[1] This was, presumably, if this was our Isaac Strouse, before his election as rabbi of the newly formed Pottsville, Pa., congregation, which took place before September 1, 1857.

especially to the Chazanim and preachers [rabbis] of the United States.

XX (No. 8): In 1864, apparently, the Reverend Isaac Strouse had a congregation, or was living, in Pittsburgh, for in November of that year he was listed in the second advertising page of the November, 1864, issue of *The Occident* as a subscriber to the periodical.

— FULT [FULD]. [B. L. Fould.] A rabbi or minister (also a Chazan) by the name of Fult, whose first name, strangely and inexplicably, is not to be found in the congregational records, but which should at least have been spelled as Fuld, came to Wheeling to serve Congregation Leshem Shomayim in 1862, no doubt in early September or shortly before that, succeeding Isaac Strouse. It is not known with absolute exactness how long the Reverend Fult [Fuld] remained with the Wheeling congregation; his term of service, in all likelihood, extended from September, 1862, to September, 1865. A brief item in David Einhorn's *Sinai* (Volume VII, October, 1862, No. 9, pages 257–258) states that the Reverend Fuld, up to that time of Cleveland [Ohio], was engaged by the Wheeling congregation as its teacher and preacher. Undoubtedly, therefore, on the ground of this *Sinai* news item, this Reverend Fuld may be identified with and as B. L. Fould [his full first name is, apparently, lost], who, other sources indicate, came to Cleveland in 1850 to serve as the rabbi (1850 to 1860) and as the Chazan, and preacher in English and German, of Anshe Chessed [Chesed] Congregation, as well as the teacher of its Sabbath school (1860–1862), and who remained with the Cleveland congregation until the end of August, 1862, serving, apparently, in the two years from 1860 to 1862, not as the rabbi of the congregation, but as its Chazan, preacher, and teacher. The name of the Reverend Mr. B. L. Fould, or Rabbi B. L. Fould, is mentioned as of Cleveland, Ohio, many times in the volumes of *The Occident*.

— SCHWED. In 1872, for part of the year only, a minister or rabbi named Schwed, his first name or first initial not

being listed in the congregational records, served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim. This less-than-one-year service of the otherwise unknown Rabbi Schwed is mentioned in the minute books of the congregation.

In view of the reference in the *AJYB* for 1904–1905 [5665 A.M.], page 376, to the effect that Isaac Schwab, *formerly a rabbi in West Virginia* [the italics are mine. A. I. S.], celebrated the 25th anniversary of his connection as rabbi with Congregation Adath Joseph, of St. Joseph, Mo., I regard it as a very strong probability, and perhaps even pretty much of a certainty, that this mysterious Mr. Schwed or Rabbi Schwed was, in actuality, Isaac Schwab, and that the name Schwed represents an inaccuracy for, or a misspelling of, his name of Isaac Schwab. The same "Mr. Schwed" having served also as rabbi of the Charleston congregation in the early period, it is quite possible that the Charleston "Mr. Schwed" is also to be identified with Isaac Schwab; it is possible, also, that the congregational records of Leshem Shomayim erred in ascribing his term of service only to the year 1872, but that, on the contrary, he served longer than that, perhaps for three or four years in all, because Rabbi A. L. Mayer (or Meyer), his successor, did not come to Wheeling until September, 1876. Thus it is not known with definiteness when Isaac Schwab (Schwed) left the city of Wheeling for good. It seems clear to me, at least, that the name "Mr. Schwed" or "Rabbi Schwed" is a scribal or secretarial error for (Isaac) Schwab.

On this assumption, I present below a résumé of the references to Isaac Schwab in the several volumes of the *CCAR*, for, despite his lack of ordination, this rabbi appears to have been a man of considerable rabbinical ability and scholarship. (The fact that the first four letters — *Schw-* — of the names Schwed and Schwab are common to both names will easily be perceived).

"Isaac Schwab, Rabbi, Congregation Adath Joseph, Sixth and Jule Streets, St. Joseph, Mo." (*CCAR*, XII [1902], 252). Isaac Schwab served as rabbi of the St.

Joseph, Mo., congregation for more than 25 years, and died in St. Joseph in 1907.

II (1891–1892), pp. 69–84: "Response by Dr. Isaac Schwab," of St. Joseph, Mo., on the question of the circumcision of proselytes to Judaism.

Dr. I. [Isaac] Schwab, then of St. Joseph, Mo., was present, as a member, at the 1st annual convention of the C. C. A. R., held at Cleveland, Ohio, on July 13 to 15, 1890 (*CCAR*, I [1890–1891], pages 13–15). In the *CCAR* for 1902 (XII, page 252), he is recorded as still, in that year, rabbi of the St. Joseph, Mo., congregation. He died at St. Joseph in 1907; in XVII (1907), pages 37–38, of the *CCAR* there is a memorial resolution in his memory. The first reference to his death in a *CCAR* volume is to be found in Volume XVII (1907), page 272.

On Wednesday morning, August 30, 1893, Rabbi Isaac Schwab, of St. Joseph, Mo., presented a paper, "A Review of the Messianic Idea of the Jews from the Earlier Times to the Rise of Christianity," at the Jewish Denominational Congress held in the Memorial Art Palace, in Chicago, on August 27 to 30, 1893, in connection with the Columbian Exposition and the Columbian Congress of Religions held at Chicago in that year (*CCAR*, 1893–1894 [5654 A.M.], page 42). In the 1894–1895 *Yearbook* [5655 A.M.], Isaac Schwab is listed for the first time in a Conference *Yearbook* as a member, from St. Joseph, Mo. (page 149). He attended the 5th annual convention of the C. C. A. R., held at Atlantic City, N. J., on July 11 to 15, 1894 (*ibid.* [5655 A.M.], page 77). At the Cleveland Convention of the C. C. A. R., held on July 2 to 6, 1905, he presented a paper, "The Liturgical Relations of the Kaddish" (*ibid.*, XV [1905], 9, 205–22). In 1905 to 1907, he served as a member of the C. C. A. R. Standing Committees on the Elaboration of a Systematic Jewish Theology and on the Jewish Quarterly (*CCAR*, XVI [1906], 6, 8, 10, 131; XVII [1907], 4). The idea of the Conference Jewish quarterly was later dropped, but was successfully revived almost a

half-century later, in 1953, with the publication of the *C. C. A. R. Journal*.

In 1906–1907, perhaps no longer serving as a rabbi, Isaac Schwab is listed as living in Chicago (*CCAR*, XVI [1906], 32, 342). He died at St. Joseph, Mo., only one year later (1907), as above mentioned.

According to the *AJYB* (1907–1908 [5668 A.M.]), Rabbi Isaac Schwab died at Chicago, on February 4, 1907 (page 505), at the age of 66. The city Chicago is, in all likelihood, an error for St. Joseph, Mo.

S. Kuttenauer. S. Kuttenauer served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim from 1865 to 1872. His full first name does not appear in the records, but only the initial S. S. Kuttenauer initiated reforms in the ritual and observances of the congregation, which had thitherto been a strictly Orthodox congregation, and apparently these reforms and changes in the practices and ritual of the congregation were approved by the great majority of the members, and were so successful that only two years after his departure from the city, the Wheeling congregation, in 1874, joined the avowedly Reform congregational group which had been founded in the preceding year by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, of Cincinnati: the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Nothing further is known about Rabbi S. Kuttenauer and about his work in the Wheeling congregation, or where he went thereafter.

A. L. Meyer [Mayer]. The Reverend A. L. Meyer came to Wheeling in 1876, presumably in late August or early September, of that year, to become rabbi or minister of the congregation there. The meaning of his initials A. L. is no longer known; it appears that his full first name was never recorded or used by the congregation. His surname is sometimes spelled as Mayer. A. L. Mayer is recorded, during the years of the publication of *The Occident* by Isaac Leeser, as having served as rabbi and teacher of the congregation in Easton, Pa.; then in Syracuse, N. Y.; and still later as rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation, in Richmond, Va., all prior to the year 1869, thus some years before his

arrival in Wheeling. According to *The Occident*, XXI (1863), page 20, he was serving as rabbi in Easton, Pa., in the year 1863.

It is possible that Rabbi A. L. Mayer (or Meyer) of Wheeling is identical with the Rabbi A. Meyer who is listed in the *CCAR* for 1894–1895 [5655 A.M.], page 149, as a rabbi living in Texarkana, Tex. (Cf. also *CCAR*, 1893–1894 [5654 A.M.], pages 31 and 46, for Rabbi A. Meyer and Rabbi L. Meyer.) It is possible, also, that he is to be identified with a Rabbi Alexander Mayer, who served for a time as rabbi in Charleston, S. C., and whose name appears fleetingly in *The Occident*. In 1895, A. Meyer was still rabbi in Texarkana, Tex. (*CCAR*, 1895, Volume VI [5655 A.M.], page 147). Rabbi A. Meyer, again, is recorded in *CCAR*, VIII (1898–1899 [5659 A.M.], page 103), as rabbi of Beth Hashalom Congregation, of Williamsport, Pa., in 1898–1899.

In the Wheeling congregation, A. L. Meyer (or Mayer) served as rabbi or minister (as Chazan also?) for almost three years, from 1876 to 1879. Little is known of his three-year service with Congregation Leshem Shomayim. In December, 1876, by resolution of the Board of Trustees of the congregation, "Dr. A. L. Meyer" was requested by the Board to lecture [give sermons] twice a month in the synagogue, "on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, during the winter season, until March, 1877" (i. e., for only a three-month period). It is to be noted that these *lectures* (they are not called "sermons") were not to be delivered on Friday nights or on Saturday mornings, at the two regular weekly Sabbath services of the congregation, but on Sundays [mornings or afternoons?]. They may have been the first "lectures," or sermons, which the congregation had ever had; none of their subjects are known.

At the end of his first year of service, the Reverend A. L. Meyer's salary was fixed at [raised to?] $1,000 a year. But when, at the expiration of his second year of service, the attempt was made to reduce this to $800 per annum,

presumably in an effort to discourage him from remaining with the congregation, for reasons now unknown and not stated in the congregational minutes,[1] the Reverend Meyer flatly refused to accept the reduced sum. Apparently, his refusal to leave or to accept the smaller salary so angered the Board of Trustees that his salary was then (deliberately and hostilely?] ordered still further reduced to $500 per annum, and he was informed that at the end of August, 1879, he would cease to be the minister and preacher of the congregation.[2]

JACOB THEODORE VOGELSDORF. Jacob Theodore Vogelsdorf (his name is sometimes spelled with the double *f* at the end) had a brief and very stormy "career" as minister of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, serving there only for the approximately five-month period from August, 1879, to the very end of December of that year, or to January 1, 1880. After that he left the city "by mutual consent." Certain charges, apparently not disproved, and which are not mentioned in the congregational records, were brought against him, as a result of which "Dr." Vogelsdorf apparently was willing to give up his one-year contract, which still had seven months "to go." No further details are known about his biography; he was, presumably, German-born.

I. N. SAENGER. The Reverend I. N. Saenger's full first name is not known, but just his initials. It is most probable that his

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[1] It is also possible that it was for financial reasons, due to the possibly poor status of the congregational treasury.

[2] The minutes of the congregation give no inklings as to the reasons for this cavalier treatment of the Reverend A. L. Meyer (or Mayer). It was, in all likelihood, part and parcel of the eternal conflict between rabbi and congregation, between Boards of Trustees or Directors of congregations and their rabbis, entailing a clash of personalities and of temperaments, involving much injustice exercised at times by the "employers" (the Jewish laymen) against their "employees" (their ministers or rabbis), and involving also the oft recurrent discord, bickering, and "eventual dissatisfaction and unhappiness after initial happiness and satisfaction" between rabbis and laymen in many congregations of the past century (the 19th) as well as of the present century (the 20th), and resulting in frequent changes of congregations by rabbis and of rabbis by congregations, annually, in all three branches or denominations of Judaism, to the weakening of both the congregations and of the amour-propre, dignity and influence of the rabbis involved.

first name was Israel. His career as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim was also, apparently, a short and unpleasant one, since he remained with the congregation and in the city for only four months and eight or nine days, i. e., only from April 1, 1880, to August 9, 1880, a period even shorter than the period of "service" of "Dr." Jacob Theodore Vogelsdorf.

I. [Israel] Saenger [I. N. Saenger] is recorded as a member of the C. C. A. R., who was present at, and participated in, the deliberations of the 3rd annual convention of the Conference, held at New York, on July 6 to 10, 1892 (*CCAR*, III [1892–1893], 37). I. [Israel] Saenger is listed among the members of the C. C. A. R. for the first time in the *Yearbook* for 1894–1895 [5655 A.M.], page 149, where (as well as in subsequent volumes of the Conference *Yearbook*) it is indicated that his residence then was in Shreveport, La., and where, presumably, he was serving at the time as the rabbi of the Shreveport congregation in a position later (from 1920 to 1942) occupied also by Rabbi Abram Brill, who likewise, later, served in Wheeling from 1911 on. Evidently, I. [or Israel?] N. Saenger ceased to be a member of the C. C. A. R., perhaps having retired from the active congregational rabbinate some time before his death, for his death is not listed in the *CCAR*, nor is his name included in the List of Deceased Members published annually in the *Yearbook*. Many rabbis in those days, as well as still today, ceased, after some years of service, to serve as rabbis of congregations, and accordingly renounced their membership in the Central Conference. Apparently, I. N. Saenger was one of them.

A rabbi named *Israel* Saenger is listed in the *AJYB*, Volume 21 (1919–1920 [5680 A.M.], page 206), as having died at Shreveport, La., at the age of 76, on December 27, 1918. This is, in all likelihood, the same Rabbi I., or I. N., Saenger as had served previously in Wheeling. It is therefore most probable that his correct first name was Israel, or Israel N., Saenger.

Morris Sessler. The Reverend Morris Sessler served the

Wheeling congregation as its rabbi for one month more than seven years, beginning on November 1, 1880, and extending to December 1, 1887. He began his actual service as rabbi of the congregation in November [according to others, in September,] 1880, at a salary of $800 per annum. Data have been presented above, under the congregational history, as to his merely annual re-elections as rabbi of the congregation, always for a one-year term of office, despite the great rabbinical ability which he apparently possessed, and despite his apparent scholarship.

An interesting and important historical note is the following, that while serving as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, Rabbi Morris Sessler attended and participated in the famous Pittsburgh Conference (of Reform Rabbis), held in that nearby Pennsylvania city on November 16 to 18, 1885 (*CCAR*, I [1890–1891], 120). His name, as one of the nineteen participants in the Pittsburgh Conference, at which the noted Pittsburgh Platform of American Reform Judaism and of American Reform Jewry was adopted, is recorded in *JE*, Volume IV, page 215, column 1, where it is, through inadvertence and through the error of a printer and proofreader, misspelled as M. *L*essler instead of being given as Morris *S*essler. The following historic items dealing with the subsequent career of this scholarly and talented early Reform rabbi are to be found in the annual volumes of the *CCAR Yearbook*, up to the time of his death in New Orleans on July 14, 1926, almost forty years after his departure from Wheeling, after what must have been, on the whole, an insecure and not overly happy period of rabbinical service, in late November, 1887:

Rabbi Morris Sessler attended the 2nd annual convention of the C.C.A.R., held in Baltimore on July 5–6, 1891, being listed as of Providence, R. I. (*CCAR*, II [1891–1892], 12). M. [Morris] Sessler is listed for the first time as a member of the Conference in a List of Members given in the 1894–1895 *Yearbook* [5655 A.M.], page 150, and his resi-

dence is given there as New Orleans; it is not stated that this was his congregation.

Rabbi Morris Sessler was recorded as follows in *CCAR*, VIII (1898–1899 [5659 A.M.], page 105:

"Morris Sessler, Minister, Congregation Gates of Prayer, 825 Jackson Avenue, New Orleans, La."

In 1900, apparently, Morris Sessler left New Orleans, to become the rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, in Woodville, Miss. (*CCAR*, X [1900; 5660 A.M.], page 186). He attended the 13th annual convention of the C.C.A.R., held at New Orleans, on May 5 to 10, 1902 (*CCAR*, XII [1902; 5662 A.M.], page 44). At this convention he served as the chairman of a committee which audited the report of the Conference Standing Committee on Publications (*ibid.*, page 59). On page 70 of the same volume he is recorded as participating in a discussion on the Sabbath question. Morris Sessler was an active member of the C.C.A.R. for many years, and attended many or most of its annual conventions.

"Morris Sessler, B.A., Rabbi, Congregation Beth Israel, 354 Church Avenue, Woodville, Miss." (*CCAR*, XII [1902], 252).

In 1906, Morris Sessler was rabbi of the congregation [Temple Israel] in Jonesboro, Ark. (*CCAR*, XVI [1906], 342).

In 1907–1908, Morris Sessler was residing in Victoria, Tex., his address being listed as 306 Constitution Street. In all likelihood, he was serving as the rabbi of the Reform congregation of that city (*CCAR*, XVII [1907], 278). In the following two years (1908 to 1910) he served as the rabbi of Sinai Congregation, in Sumter, S. C. (*ibid.*, XVIII [1908], 358; XIX [1909], 505), and his address is given as 19 Church Street, Sumter, S. C.

On January 31, 1911, Morris Sessler paid his annual dues of $5.00 to the C.C.A.R., as recorded in *CCAR*, XXI (1911), page 33. In that year (1910–1911) he is recorded in the same Conference *Yearbook* (page 344) as serving as

the rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El, in Roanoke, Va. Morris Sessler, still the rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El, of Roanoke, Va., attended the 23rd annual convention of the C.C.A.R., held at Baltimore on April 12 to 17, 1912 (*CCAR*, XXII [1912], 32 and 359). On page 49 of this same *Yearbook* he is reported to have paid his annual dues of $5.00 to the Conference, on January 29, 1912. Again, in Volume XXIII (1913), page 47, he is recorded as having paid his annual dues to the Conference, on February 6, 1913. He served for a couple of years longer as rabbi of the Roanoke Congregation Emanu-El, and then, in 1915, he left Roanoke and moved to New Orleans, where, in retirement from the active congregational rabbinate, he served for the next eleven years, until his death in 1926, as the volunteer (and presumably unremunerated) rabbi of the [synagogue of the] Julius Weiss Home for the Aged and Infirm, his address being cited, for years, in the *CCAR* as 1312 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans (*CCAR*, XXXIII [1923], 504, 509; XXXIV [1924], 387, 392).

In June, 1923, Morris Sessler attended the 34th annual convention of the C.C.A.R., held at Cape May, N. J. (*CCAR*, XXXIII [1923], 16). This appears to have been the last convention of the Conference which he was able to attend. He died at New Orleans, on July 14, 1926, as recorded for the first time in the Conference *Yearbook* in Volume XXXVI (1926), page 408. He would appear to have been well over 70 years of age at the time of his death. From this time forth, of course, his name disappeared from the active List of Members of the Conference, and was incorporated in the Conference necrology. In Volume XXXVIII of the *CCAR* (1928, pages 244–245) there is record of the Memorial Resolutions presented before the Conference in his memory by his New Orleans colleague, Rabbi Mendel Silber, at the 38th annual convention, held at Cape May, N. J., on June 23 to 27, 1927. The following excerpts are taken from Rabbi Mendel Silber's address:

"On July 14, 1926, Rabbi Morris Sessler passed away

in New Orleans at the age of seventy-eight. He was born on Purim in the year 1848, in Vienna, Austria. He came to the United States as a young man, and was married to Louisa Calm [Cahn?] at Philadelphia, Pa., in 1874. His principal [congregational] positions were at Wheeling, W. Va.; Providence, R. I.; Oakland, Calif.; and the Gates of Prayer Congregation of New Orleans. He served, however, also in the following communities: Port Gibson, Miss.; Sumter, S. C.; Victoria, Tex.; Jonesboro, Ark.; Woodville, Miss.; Roanoke, Va.; and Opelousas, La. In 1915, he retired from active service, and made his home in New Orleans. While in New Orleans he officiated voluntarily and without compensation at the [synagogue of the] Julius Weis [Weiss] Home for the Aged and Infirm, and it was due to him that Kashruth was established in that institution. His long and useful career extended over a period of almost half a century. Rabbi Sessler was always a strong supporter of our Central Conference of American Rabbis, and he was among the first to recognize the value and importance of rabbinical pensions. His supreme and reigning passion was charity. In the closing years of his life, after his retirement from active service, he devoted practically all of his time and his residual strength and energy to the welfare of the charitable institutions of New Orleans — the Jewish Children's Home, the Touro Infirmary, and the Jewish Charitable and Educational Federation."

Morris Sessler's name and brief biography are recorded in the *AJYB* for 1904–1905 [5665 A.M.], page 223, in a list of "Biographical Sketches of Rabbis and Cantors Officiating in the United States" (additions):

"Morris Sessler (since 1904) [rabbi] of Temple Israel, Jonesboro, Arkansas. Born on August 16, 1850 [1848?], at Freistadt an der Waag, Hungary [Vienna, Austria?]. He was the son of David Sessler and Josephine Weiss. He studied at Pressburg, Budapest, [and] Vienna, and at the University of Pennsylvania (B.A., 1876). He married Louisa Cahn (deceased). He has held [rabbinical] positions in

Alexandria, Va.; in Wheeling, W. Va.; in Providence, R. I.; and in New Orleans, La. Address: Jonesboro, Ark."[1]

B. A. [Benjamin Aaron] Bonnheim. Benjamin A. Bonnheim (his full first and second names are never given in the Wheeling congregational records, nor even his full first name) came to the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim on or about April 1, 1888, and served for almost 9½ years, up to the end of August, 1897. His was the longest tenure of office of any rabbi up to the turn of the 20th century. In the course of his rabbinate, a red-brick building at 1214 Eoff Street, the first Temple of the congregation, was begun; its construction was finished before the end of 1891, and it was dedicated in the early part of the year 1892. After his retirement from the active rabbinate, Rabbi Benjamin A. Bonnheim went to Cincinnati to live. The death of Rabbi Benjamin A. Bonnheim occurred at Cincinnati on December 19, 1909, at the age of 68 (*AJYB*, 1910–1911 [5671 A.M.], Volume 12, page 110).

In the *AJYB* for 1905–1906 [5666 A.M.], page 46, in an article entitled "Biographical Sketches of Jewish Communal Workers in the United States," the name of the former Wheeling rabbi B. A. [Benjamin Aaron] Bonnheim is listed as a communal worker; his name should have been listed in the 1903–1904 and 1904–1905 list and additions of "Biographical Sketches of Rabbis and Cantors Officiating in the United States."

There is also the following historical notation:

Benjamin Aaron Bonnheim. Rabbi, Holy Blossom Congregation, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He was born on July 9, 1845, at Gemuenden, Hesse-Nassau [Germany]. The son of Aaron B. Bonnheim and Johannah Rosenbaum, Bonnheim was educated under the supervision of the Israelitisches Vorsteheramt, in Marburg, Germany. He studied rabbinic

[1] The failure to record Morris Sessler's rabbinical training is indicative of the very strong probability, and almost certainty, that, despite his rabbinical and Hebrew studies in his youth in Hungary and Germany, he was never ordained as a rabbi. He appears always to have been a Reform Jew and rabbi, ever since his arrival in the United States from Europe about the year 1870.

literature under Rabbi Gosen and Dr. Ruelf. He received the degree of M.D., in 1882, from the Columbus Medical College, in Columbus, Ohio. He took a post-graduate course at the same college. He married Paulina Hofmann. He served as rabbi of Congregation Bnei Israel, in Columbus, Ohio [Ga.?], from 1877 to 1883; and as superintendent and resident physician, at the Hebrew Hospital and Asylum, in Baltimore, from 1883 to 1888; as rabbi of Leshem Shomayim Congregation, in Wheeling, W. Va., for nearly ten years [1888–1897]; and as rabbi of the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation, in Atlanta, Ga., for four years; of Bnei Israel Congregation, of Columbus, Ga. [Ohio?], for six years; and of Montefiore Congregation, in Las Vegas, N. Mex., for five years. He was the founder and principal of the English and German Select School for Boys and Girls, in Atlanta, Ga., and served as president of the Ministers' Association, in Las Vegas, N. Mex. Address: Las Vegas, N. Mex.[1]

The versatile Benjamin A. Bonnheim thus served, in the course of his life up to the time of his death at Cincinnati on December 19, 1909, as a communal worker, physician, teacher, and rabbi. He was for many years — perhaps beginning with the time of its founding, in 1889 — a member of the C.C.A.R., and attended many of its annual conventions. The following references to him are to be found in the *CCAR Yearbooks* from 1894–1895 to 1910:

Benjamin A. Bonnheim attended the 5th annual convention of the C.C.A.R., held at Atlantic City, N. J., on July 11 to 15, 1894 (*CCAR*, 1894–1895 [5655 A.M.], 76). The same volume, on page 147, lists him for the first time as a member of the Conference, in its first List of Members. He attended the 7th annual convention of the Conference, held at Milwaukee, Wis., on July 7 to 10, 1896 (VI [1896; 5656 A.M.], 49).

In Volume XI of the *CCAR* (1901 [5661 A.M.], 154)

[1] Mrs. B. A. Bonnheim, the wife of Rabbi B. (Benjamin) A. Bonnheim, formerly of Wheeling, was living in Las Vegas, N. Mex., in 1900–1901, and serving as the secretary of the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society (*AJYB*, 5661 A.M.; 1900–1901).

Benjamin A. Bonnheim is still listed as the rabbi of Montefiore Congregation, in Las Vegas, N. Mex. Also in 1902–1903 (XII [1902], 242). He attended the 15th annual convention of the Conference, held at Louisville, on June 26 to 30, 1904. At that time he was listed as the rabbi of the Las Vegas, N. Mex., Congregation Montefiore, but on page 247 of the same *Yearbook* he is mentioned as resident in Winnipeg, Canada, to which place he had presumably gone from Las Vegas, N. Mex., in the fall of 1904, as rabbi of Holy Blossom Congregation.

In the following year (1905), Benjamin A. Bonnheim was living in Milwaukee, but apparently not serving as a rabbi there, having left Winnipeg, Canada, after only a single year as rabbi of the congregation there. In 1906 he was again living in Las Vegas, N. Mex., also perhaps not serving as rabbi of the congregation there (*CCAR*, XVI [1906], 336).

Benjamin A. Bonnheim is listed as an M.D. (perhaps practising as a physician) in 1907 in the *CCAR* (XVII [1907], 273), and as residing in Las Vegas, N. Mex. In all probability, he had resumed the practice of medicine in Las Vegas, or was merely residing there, because on page 278 of the 1907 *Yearbook* Jacob S. Raisin is listed as the rabbi of the Las Vegas, N. Mex., congregation [Montefiore Congregation].

In the following year (1908), Benjamin A. Bonnheim had retired to Cincinnati, whence he had apparently come to Wheeling a score of years previously, and was living at 658 Crown Street (*CCAR*, XVIII [1908], 351). The first notice of his death at Cincinnati in the following year in a Conference *Yearbook* is given in Volume XIX (1909), page 497, where his death is recorded in that year. In the following year, at the annual convention of 1910, held at Charlevoix, Mich., on June 28th to July 4th, the Committee on Memorial Resolutions presented a report from which the following excerpt is taken:

"Rabbi Benjamin N. [an error for A.] Bonnheim, late of Cincinnati, Ohio, was a member of our Conference for many years. In his demise, we deplore the passing of a most

faithful leader and teacher, who devoted his life to expounding and spreading the truths of Judaism" (*CCAR*, XX [1910], 117–18).

This resolution was signed by the chairman, Rabbi Israel Aaron, as well as by five other members of the Committee on Memorial Resolutions, one of whom was Leon Volmer, then rabbi of the Virginia Street Temple, in Charleston.

HARRY LEVI. Harry Levi served as the minister [rabbi] of the Eoff Street Temple for fourteen years, from 1897 to 1911. He was born in Cincinnati on August 7, 1875, and the Wheeling pulpit was his first congregation, since he was ordained by the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, in that same year, in June, 1897. His parents were Isaac and Belle Engelstein Levi. Harry Levi, an eminent writer in his day, was the author of two works, written in Wheeling: *A History of Congregation Leshem Shomayim*; and *Jewish Characters in English Fiction* (1911).[1]

In early September, 1911, Harry Levi left Wheeling to become the rabbi of Temple Israel, in Boston, which he served until his death at Boston, in 1944. While in Boston, he wrote two other books: *The Great Adventure* (1929) and *A Rabbi Speaks* (1930). Throughout his entire rabbinical career he was deeply interested in peace and world unity movements, and in the enhancing of good will between Christians and Jews, and was active in social service work, also, and in the attempted solution of social problems, for more than three decades in Boston.

In March, 1910, just a year or so before leaving Wheeling, he was elected State vice president of the Child Labor Commission, director of the Wheeling Playground Association, State secretary of the Probation Officers' Association, and secretary of the Wheeling Anti-Tuberculosis Society. For the entire 14-year period of his rabbinate in Wheeling, he was active, together with Israel Isenberg, a member of his Wheeling congregation, in the work of the

[1] I have not used his first-named volume as a source book for the history of his congregation in Wheeling.

Jewish Chautauqua Society, attending most of its summer study courses, often lecturing there, and promoting the work of the J. C. S. in Wheeling and in West Virginia generally.

The *AJYB* for 1903–1904 [5664 A.M.], Volume 5, on page 73, in a list of "Biographical Sketches of Rabbis and Cantors Officiating in the United States," contains the following short sketch of Harry Levi:

"Levi, Harry. Rabbi (since 1897) of Congregation Leshem Shamayim [Shomayim], Wheeling, W. Va. Born August 7, 1875, at Cincinnati, Ohio. Son of Isaac Levi and Belle Engelstein [Levi]. [He was] educated at public schools of Cincinnati, Ohio; at the University of Cincinnati; and at the Hebrew Union College (Rabbi, 1897). Publications: 'A History of Congregation Leshem Shamayim'; 'Jewish Characters in English Fiction.' Address: Eoff Street Temple, Wheeling, W. Va."

Only one name is mentioned in this "List of Biographical Sketches" for the State of West Virginia, i. e., that of Rabbi Harry Levi, perhaps an indication that he was, apparently, in 1903–1904, the only rabbi in the entire State. It is of interest that Harry Levi was born in the same year (1875) in which Isaac Mayer Wise and his associates in Cincinnati and in other cities in the U. A. H. C. opened up the Hebrew Union College in the basement of the Mound Street Synagogue (Bene Israel Congregation), at Eighth and Mound Street, in Cincinnati, Levi's birthplace.

The following brief notice of his obituary is given in the *AJYB* for 1944–1945 [5705 A.M.], page 341:

"Rabbi Harry Levi died at Brookline, Mass., on June 13, 1944. He was born in Cincinnati on August 7, 1875. In 1910, he was elected West Virginia State vice president of the Child Labor Committee. He wrote three noted works: *Jewish Characters in English Fiction; A Rabbi Speaks;* and *The Great Adventure*."

The following items excerpted from the *CCAR* present an idea of Harry Levi's work and membership in the C. C. A. R.:

Harry Levi is listed as follows in *CCAR*, XII (1902), page 247:

"Harry Levi, Rabbi, Congregation Leshem Shomayim, 76 Fifteenth Street, Wheeling, W. Va."

In 1904–1905, he served as a member of the C. C. A. R. Standing Committee on Sectarianism. In 1905–1906, he served as a member of the Conference's Standing Committee on Church and State (*CCAR*, XV [1905], 7), and on page 138 he signed the report of this Conference Committee on Sectarianism, together with the following notable rabbis of those and of later years: David Lefkowitz, chairman; Abram Simon, Samuel Koch, and Nathan Krasnowetz [later shortened to Krass].

On January 16, 1911, Harry Levi paid his annual dues of $5.00 to the C. C. A. R., as recorded in *CCAR*, Volume XXI (1911), page 32. In this same volume (page 341) Harry Levi is, for the first time, recorded as the rabbi of Temple Israel, of Boston, with his address as 56 Verndale Street, Brookline, Mass.

In 1912–1913, Harry Levi served as a member of the C. C. A. R. Standing Committee on Sermonic Literature, together with Rabbis Abram Brill (also later a Wheeling Reform rabbi), Samuel Hirschberg, G. George Fox, M. [presumably Marcus] Friedlander, and Alfred G. Moses (*CCAR*, XXII [1912], 344; XXIII [1913], 7). In the same year 1912 to 1913 he served as a member of the Conference Standing Committee on Religious Work in Universities (*CCAR*, XXIII [1913], 8), and in the following thirty years he attended a number of annual conventions and participated in their work and in the endeavors of the C. C. A. R.

Harry Levi died at Brookline, Mass., near Boston, on June 13, 1944, at the age of 69. A Memorial Address in his memory was delivered by his successor in the pulpit of Temple Israel, of Boston, whose rabbi emeritus he had been prior to his death, i. e., the late Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman, in late June, 1944, at the 55th annual convention of the Conference, and was published in *CCAR*, Volume LIV (1944), pages 194–196. It was mentioned in the Memorial Address that Rabbi Harry Levi had served as the rabbi of the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim for 14 years, and then as the rabbi of Temple Israel, in Boston, for more than 30 years.

ABRAM BRILL. Abram Brill served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, from 1911 to 1914. In the latter year he went to Meridian, Miss., serving from 1914 to 1920 as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel there. He then went to Shreveport, La., as the rabbi of B'nai Zion Congregation, where he served from 1920 until his retirement in 1942. Abram Brill died at Montclair, N. J., on February 20, 1943. He had succeeded Harry Levi as the rabbi of the Wheeling Reform congregation. For many years he was an active member of the C. C. A. R.

The *AJYB* for 1903–1904 (Volume 5 [5664 A.M.]), in its article entitled "Biographical Sketches of Rabbis and Cantors Officiating in the United States," contains, on page 46, the following brief biographical sketch of Abram Brill before he came to West Virginia in 1911:

"BRILL, ABRAM. Rabbi of [the] Hebrew Union Congregation, Greenville, Miss. Born May 18, 1876, at Ogdensburg, N. Y. Son of Mordecai Joseph Brill and Lottie Tumim [Brill]. Educated in the Syracuse grammar schools; in the Rochester and Cincinnati high schools; University of Cincinnati (B.A.); and the Hebrew Union College (B.H.L. and Rabbi).[1] He was Rabbi of Congregation Beth El, in Helena, Ark. Address: 519 Washington Ave., Greenville, Miss."

On the occasion of his death, in 1943, the following obituary was included in the *AJYB* for 1943–1944 [5704 A.M.], page 382:

"RABBI ABRAM BRILL; born in Ogdensburg, N. Y., on May 18, 1876; served congregations in Arkansas [Helena], Mississippi [Greenville], and West Virginia [Wheeling], from 1900 to 1920; rabbi of Congregation B'nai Zion, Shreveport, La., from 1920 to 1942; member of the Executive Council [Board] of the C. C. A. R.; died at Montclair, N. J., on February 20, 1943."[2]

Rabbi Abram Brill attended many of the annual conventions of the C. C. A. R., and his name occurs often as a member of

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[1] He was ordained by the H. U. C. in June, 1900.

[2] The obituary inadvertently omitted his service of six years, from 1914 to 1920, as rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, in Meridian, Miss., after he left Wheeling.

important Standing and Temporary Committees of the Conference, as recorded in the *CCAR*. From 1936 to 1938 he served as a member of the Executive Board of the C. C. A. R. He delivered memorial addresses and read the religious services at several Conference conventions.

The following additional items of interest appeared in the *CCAR* with reference to him in the years from 1902–1903 to 1943:

In 1902–1903, Abraham [Abram] Brill served as rabbi of Congregation Beth-El, in Helena, Ark. (*CCAR*, XII [1902], 242). In 1904, he was rabbi of the congregation in Greenville, Miss. (*ibid.*, XIV [1904], 247), and the same source recorded him as still serving in Greenville, Miss., in 1910.

On January 31, 1911, Abram Brill paid his annual dues of $5.00 to the C. C. A. R., as reported in *CCAR*, XXI (1911), 33. In that year and in the following year (1911 and 1912) he is recorded, for the first times, as being the [new] rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of Wheeling (XXI [1911], 338; XXII [1912], 351). In the former volume, his home address is given as 45 South Broadway, in Wheeling; in the latter volume, it is given as 43 Poplar Avenue, Woodlawn, Wheeling.

In 1912–1913, Abram Brill served as a member of the C. C. A. R. Standing Committee on Sermonic Literature, together with the following rabbis: Samuel Hirschberg, Harry Levi, G. George Fox, Alfred G. Moses, and M. [presumably Marcus] Friedlander (*CCAR*, XXII [1912], 344; XXIII [1913], 7).

Rabbi Abram Brill died at Montclair, N. J., on February 20, 1943. Memorial Resolutions were adopted in his memory, and a Memorial Address was presented by Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger, of New Orleans, a classmate of his of the Class of 1900 at the H. U. C. (*CCAR*, LIII [1943], 230–232). He had served as rabbi of B'nai Zion Congregation, in Shreveport, La., for 22 years (1920–1942).

Morris S. Lazaron. Abram Brill was succeeded in the rabbinate of Congregation Leshem Shomayim by Morris S. Lazaron, who served the congregation for only a single

year, from August, 1914, to August 31, 1915. In the latter year, he left Wheeling for Baltimore, where he became rabbi of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, serving (for 31 years, from 1915 to 1946) until his retirement in 1946. In 1959, he was living in New York City, where in that year he had published a work entitled *Bridges — Not Walls*, subtitled "A Challenge to All Faiths," containing some autobiographical data as well as his thesis that all religious faiths in the United States are able to, and should, live together harmoniously and creatively, with religious intolerance and hatred abolished. Congregation Leshem Shomayim was his first rabbinical pulpit, since he was ordained by the H. U. C. in June, 1914.

The biography of Morris S. Lazaron is contained in *Who's Who in World Jewry* (1955). He was born at Savannah, Ga., on April 16, 1888, and some years later his family moved to Cincinnati. He received the B.A. degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1909, and was awarded the M.A. degree by this University in 1911. In June, 1914, he was ordained by the H. U. C. Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron, a close personal friend and correspondent of mine, as well as a much older colleague of mine in the American Reform rabbinate, in a letter to me written at New York City in February, 1957, presented the following account of his brief one-year ministry in Wheeling:

"I was the rabbi in residence in Wheeling from August, 1914, to August, 1915. In my senior year at the Hebrew Union College (1913–1914) I had gone to Wheeling as the student rabbi, on a bi-weekly basis. I was preceded in Wheeling as rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim by Abram Brill, and I was followed by Abba Hillel Silver. In the course of my one year in the Eoff Street Temple, in Wheeling, I reorganized the Religious School, and organized a Men's Club, a Boys' Club, and the Young Men's Hebrew Association.

"My stay there was an inspiring experience! I had followed Abram Brill, who went to his Southland, Vicksburg [Meridian, Miss., and then Shreveport], I believe. Brill had

succeeded Harry Levi. The family of Charles Sonneborn, who is now resident in Wheeling, was prominent in congregational affairs in my days."

ABBA HILLEL SILVER. Abba Hillel Silver followed Morris S. Lazaron as the rabbi of the Wheeling Congregation Leshem Shomayim, serving from 1915 to 1917. His biography is to be found in *Who's Who in World Jewry* (1955).

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was born in Neinstadt, Province of Schirwindt, Lithuania, on January 28, 1893. He was rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim from September, 1915, to the end of August, 1917, at which time he was called to Cleveland, to become rabbi of The Temple, or Tifereth Israel Congregation, in which position he was still serving in 1959–1960. He received the B.A. degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1915, and was ordained in that same year by the H. U. C. The Wheeling congregation was his first rabbinical post; the Cleveland congregation was his second and last one. In 1925, the H. U. C. awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. During his second year in Wheeling, from 1916 to 1917, he served as a member of the National Auxiliary Board of the National Farm School, of Philadelphia.

Abba Hillel Silver served as the student rabbi of the Huntington, W. Va., Congregation Ohev Sholom, for either one or two years, in 1912–1913, and again, possibly, in 1914–1915, the latter when he was a senior student at the H. U. C., in Cincinnati.

Since he began his service as the rabbi of Tifereth Israel Congregation, in Cleveland, from 1917 on, Abba Hillel Silver has gained a national and even an international reputation as an author, orator, and Zionist leader. He played an important role in the Zionist Organization of America, serving as its vice president for a term, and as its president from 1945 to 1946, and also as a member of important committees of other Zionist groups. He is known as a tireless worker for the United Jewish Appeal and the United Palestine Appeal. From 1945 to 1947, he was president of the C. C. A. R.

Among the notable volumes which he published are: *Messianic Speculations in Ancient Israel* (1927); *The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History* (1928); *Religion in a Changing World* (1930); *World Crisis and Jewish Survival* (1941); and *Where Judaism Differed* (1956).

Louis D. Gross. On September 13, 1917, Louis D. Gross was installed as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, as the successor to Abba Hillel Silver. He served in Wheeling for about one year, until June, 1918. (Until September, 1917, he had been the rabbi of Temple Israel, in Akron, Ohio.) He then entered the chaplaincy service in the United States Armed Forces, in the First World War, and did not return to Wheeling. After his services in the Armed Forces, he became rabbi of Temple Israel, in Brooklyn, N. Y., and he remained in Brooklyn for many years, as rabbi of that and of other Reform Jewish congregations, successively.

Louis D. Gross, the eldest son of Cantor Aaron Grodsky, of Cincinnati (the family name was originally Grodsky, but some of Cantor Gross's several sons later changed it to Gross), which city was his original home city while he was a student at the H. U. C., was ordained by that institution in June, 1909. In Brooklyn, for many years, he was the editor, owner, and publisher of the weekly *Jewish Examiner*, which was founded by him in 1929, but which was later merged with the *American Hebrew*, of New York City, as the *American Examiner*, after he had given up its editorship. Louis D. Gross wrote "Memorial Address — Professor Sigmund Mannheimer," published in *CCAR*, Volume XX (1910 [5670 A.M.], pages 170–175), an appreciation of the life and work of one of his teachers at the H. U. C., the noted Hebrew grammarian, Bible historian, and linguist Sigmund Mannheimer, founder of that distinguished Cincinnati family.

Louis A. Mischkind. Rabbi Louis A. Mischkind succeeded Louis D. Gross, in September, 1918, as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, and served until the end of

the religious year 1921, when he left to become rabbi of Congregation Beth Emeth, in Wilmington, Del. The Wheeling congregation was his first rabbinical post, and the Wilmington, Del., congregation was his second and last one, since on June 19, 1929, at the age of 32, he was killed in Wilmington in a horseback-riding accident. Born in 1896, he was one of the youngest rabbis ever to be ordained by the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, his ordination having occurred in June, 1918, when he was only a little more than 21 years old. (Abba Hillel Silver was another young graduate of the H. U. C., being only 22 at the time of his ordination in June, 1915).

A Memorial Address in his memory was delivered at the 1929 Convention of the C. C. A. R. by his classmate, Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman, of Hartford, Conn. (*CCAR*, XXXIX [1929], 227–229).

Hyman A. Iola. Hyman A. Iola served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim from 1921 to 1925, succeeding Louis A. Mischkind. A native of Rochester, N. Y., where he was born in 1896, he was ordained by the H. U. C. in June, 1921. The Wheeling congregation was his first rabbinical post. After leaving Wheeling, he served for a number of years as rabbi of Temple Israel, in Tulsa, Okla., and later, suffering from severe, partly mental, illness over a period of years, he retired to Tucson, Ariz., where, in an effort to regain his health, he served for several years as the rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, but died on October 19, 1941.

A Memorial Address in his memory was delivered before the C. C. A. R. in 1942 by his classmate, the late Rabbi William B. Schwartz (*CCAR*, LII [1942], 258–259).

Abraham L. Feinberg. Abraham L. Feinberg, a native of Bellaire, Ohio, succeeded Hyman A. Iola as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, which city is located only seven miles from Bellaire. He served in Wheeling for two years (1925–1927). His biography is included in *Who's Who in World Jewry* (1925).

Abraham L. Feinberg (born in Bellaire, Ohio, on Sep-

tember 14, 1901, the son of Nathan and Sarah Abramson Feinberg), received the A.B. degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1921, and was ordained by the H. U. C. in June, 1924. After leaving the Wheeling congregation, he served for several years as the rabbi of Temple Israel, in Manhattan, New York, succeeding the noted Rabbi Maurice H. Harris in that position, but several years later he retired — it proved to be only temporarily — from the rabbinate, and devoted himself to radio work as a singer in New York City, under the pseudonym of "The Poet Prince." Then, about the year 1935, possessed of considerable oratorical ability, a strong feeling for Judaism, and a desire once more to serve his religious people as a rabbi, he reentered the active congregational rabbinate, and went to Denver, Colo., as rabbi of Congregation Emanuel, succeeding the then retired and eminent Rabbi Emeritus William S. Friedman (who died in 1944) in this post. In 1943, he left Denver for his present (1959) position as rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple, in Toronto, Canada.[1]

Charles E. Shulman. Charles E. Shulman served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, from 1927 to 1931. His biography is to be found in *Who's Who in World Jewry* (1955). He succeeded Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg in this position.

Born in Berdichev, Russia, on July 25, 1901, Charles E. Shulman was brought to the United States by his parents, presumably when he was still a child. He received the LL.B. degree from Ohio Northern University, at Ada, Ohio, in 1921; the M.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 1927; and he was ordained in that same year by the H. U. C. The rabbinate of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, was his first rabbinical post.[2] In 1931, Charles E. Shulman left Wheeling to become the rabbi of

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[1] In 1961, Rabbi Abraham L. Feinberg retired as the rabbi of Holy Blossom Congregation, of Toronto, but was still living in that city as its rabbi emeritus.

[2] The Wheeling Reform congregation appears to have been the first rabbinical position held by so many of the later-to-become eminent graduates of the H. U. C., and for many years it was so regarded as a "steppingstone" in their careers in the rabbinate.

the North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe (near Chicago), Ill.; he served in this position for 16 years, including a three-year tour of service as a United States Navy chaplain (in the United States Naval Reserve) from 1943 to 1946 (*CCAR*, LVI [1946], List of Chaplains, at the beginning of the volume, before page 1). In the Navy, he attained the rank of lieutenant commander. In 1947, he left Glencoe, Ill., for New York, becoming rabbi of the newly founded (and which he himself helped to found) Riverdale Temple, in The Bronx, which position he still held in 1959. He was awarded the honorary D.D. degree by the Hebrew Union College in 1956.

During the four years of his rabbinate in Wheeling, Charles E. Shulman issued a *Temple Bulletin* which contained interesting data on the history of the Eoff Street Temple and of its affiliated organizations. He described the Riverdale Temple in the northwest Bronx section of New York City as "a pioneer experiment in building a new congregation along the lines of Liberal Judaism." He is noted as an orator and platform speaker of great ability, and, as an author and writer, he wrote two books: *Problems of the Jews in the Contemporary World* and *Europe's Conscience in Decline*. Both during his three years of service in the United States Navy during the Second World War, and thereafter, he traveled extensively over many parts of the world, including Australia, the Philippines, Europe, Israel, and North Africa. His writings for various sectarian and secular journals include many devoted to the subject of the furtherance of the American way of life. Several of his sermons were included in the volumes of the *World's Best Sermons*.

Rabbi Charles E. Shulman's most recently published volume is *What It Means to Be a Jew*.

In a letter written to me on February 21, 1957, from Riverdale, N. Y., Rabbi Charles E. Shulman, on the strength of the contents of his Temple bulletins issued in Wheeling during his four-year rabbinate there (1927–1931), which he was generous and kind enough to read over and excerpt on my behalf before he wrote that letter, presented

the following brief portrait, valuable for some of its details, which are nowhere else obtainable, of his Eoff Street Congregation in Wheeling:

"Fortunately, I bound the volumes of the bulletins which I issued during my term in Wheeling . . . . The two presidents of the Wheeling congregation during my time were Leon B. Stein (1927–1929) and Sidney Reichert (1929–1931). The Religious School teachers were Miss Marguerite Front, Mrs. Julia Dreyfus, Miss Lillian Levy, Miss Sylvia Miller, Miss Frances Broverman, Roland Jacobs, I. Farer, Miss Adelle Crone, Miss Marguerite Levy, Miss Ethel Elikan, and Max Levy. President of the [Temple] Men's Club was Sam Rybeck. President of the B'nai B'rith of Wheeling was Sig [Sigmund S.] Front. The State Sisterhood president was Mrs. Leo Wolf. The Choir leader was Elsa Gundling Duga. The head of the Federation of Jewish Charities was Herbert [O.] Baer.

"My first Confirmation Class consisted of: Caroline Baer, Jaqueline Front, Eleanor Blum, Dorothy Clifford, Julia Graff, Louise Meyer, and Morton Sonneborn.

"The Wheeling [local] Sisterhood president was Irma Sonneborn.

"During my time [in Wheeling] I spoke in most of the communities throughout the State, including West Virginia University at Morgantown, and West Virginia Wesleyan, at Buckhannon, and in churches, etc."

"Incidentally, while studying for my law degree, I lived in Albuquerque, N. Mex., for a year before going to the H. U. C. in Cincinnati. I had a sick mother with me, and I worked in the law department of the Santa Fe Railroad in Albuquerque, at the time when Moise Bergman was the rabbi of Temple Albert, in Albuquerque."

Mordecai M. Thurman. Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman, succeeding Rabbi Charles E. Shulman, served as the rabbi of the Wheeling Reform congregation from 1931 to 1934. He was ordained by the H. U. C. in 1931, and the Eoff Street Temple, again, was his first rabbinical position. In 1959,

Rabbi Mordecai M. Thurman was the rabbi of Ohev Zion Synagogue, in Martinsville, Va.

Baruch Braunstein. Rabbi Baruch Braunstein succeeded Mordecai M. Thurman as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, serving from 1934 to 1936. He was ordained by the Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York (now the New York School of the H. U. C. - J. I. R.), in 1930. Later, he served as rabbi of the Reform congregation in Atlantic City, N. J. (Beth Israel Congregation). In 1959, having obtained the Ph.D. degree, Rabbi Baruch Braunstein was living in Berkeley, Calif., apparently retired from the active rabbinate.

George B. Lieberman. Rabbi George B. Lieberman came to Wheeling in early September, 1936, succeeding Rabbi Baruch Braunstein, and served as the rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple for the seven-year period from 1936 to 1943. His biography is included in *Who's Who in World Jewry* (1955).

Rabbi George B. Lieberman, a very close personal friend and correspondent of mine, and a fine colleague, was most generous and cooperative in furnishing me, from his capacious files, at a considerable expenditure of time and energy, with a very large amount of material and data bearing on the history of the Wheeling Reform congregation, and that of the Wheeling community in general, as indicated at the top of such subsections of the history of the Wheeling congregation and community which come from his files, or from his personal reminiscences, or from his Temple bulletins, or from his other materials which he had collected and preserved in the course of his seven-year rabbinate in Wheeling as the spiritual leader of Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

Born in Wysokie-Litewskie, Poland, on February 19, 1910, George B. Lieberman came to the United States in 1925, at the age of fifteen. His parents, apparently, settled in Cleveland upon their arrival in the United States, for George B. Lieberman is known as "a Cleveland boy." He

received the B.A. degree from Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, in 1930, and was ordained by the H. U. C. in 1936. He did a considerable amount of post-graduate study at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass. Again, in his case, Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, was his first pulpit; after serving there from 1936 to 1943, he was called as rabbi to Temple Sinai, in Canton, Ohio, known also as the Canton Hebrew Congregation or as the McKinley Avenue Temple, where he served from 1943 to 1953. In 1954, he became rabbi of the Central Synagogue of Nassau County, in Rockville Center, N. Y., and still occupied this position in 1959.

During his long, fruitful, and eventful seven-year tenure of office with Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, Rabbi George B. Lieberman even married a West Virginia girl, Sylvia Klein, of Morgantown, in 1943. He served from 1941 to 1945 as a lecturer on comparative literature and a member of the faculty of West Liberty State Teachers' College, in West Liberty, W. Va. He received the Wheeling Community Award in 1940. In that same year, at Wheeling, in March, 1940, he was honored by the Chamber of Commerce and by the three newspapers of the city by being granted the award for 1939 for exceptional service in the community and in the State in the field of religion (*AJYB*, 1940–1941 [5701 A.M.], page 464). From 1940 to the end of 1941 he served, after election, as the president of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Student Foundation at West Virginia University, in Morgantown. In May, 1941, the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature was conferred upon him by West Virginia Wesleyan College, at Buckhannon, W. Va.

In Wheeling, Rabbi George B. Lieberman was a member of the Ohio Valley Christian Ministerial Association. He aided in the organizing of the Wheeling B'nai B'rith lodge, and organized in the city a Book Review Lecture Course sponsored by the Sisterhood of the Eoff Street Temple. During the Second World War years, he served on the National War Labor Board, representing the public, under

appointment by the Federal Government, presiding at, and arbitrating, a large number of industrial disputes, and receiving, in November, 1945, at the end of his service on the Board, a letter of commendation from Frederick H. Bullen, chairman of Region V of the National War Labor Board, in Cleveland.

He was, during his residence in Wheeling, greatly interested in social and civic work for Negroes in Wheeling, being chairman of the Negro Welfare Committee of the Council of Social Agencies of Wheeling.

In 1939 to 1940, and again for two years thereafter, Rabbi George B. Lieberman served as the representative from West Virginia on the C. C. A. R. Standing Committee on Church and State (*CCAR*, XLIX [1939], 9; LIII [1943], 10; LIV [1944], 10).

Charles B. Lesser. Rabbi Charles B. Lesser, succeeding Rabbi George B. Lieberman, served as the rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple from September, 1943, to September, 1946. He was born at Duncan, Miss., on April 10, 1910, and was ordained by the H. U. C. in 1935. After leaving Wheeling, he served for several years as the rabbi of Congregation Emanuel, in Roanoke, Va. (1946–1950), and then, after serving for several years as a Hillel Foundation director at one or two universities, he went to Waco, Tex., to become the rabbi of Temple Rodef Shalom, serving that congregation for several years until September, 1957, at which time he removed to New York City to become director of religious education for the American Council for Judaism, Inc., in New York. In 1959–1960, he was serving as the rabbi of the new, second, Reform congregation in Denver, Colo., Congregation Micah.

During his term of office in Wheeling, according to reports, there was a severe dispute, as well as a bad split, or "schism," in Congregation Leshem Shomayim on the issue of political Zionism, and as a result Rabbi Charles B. Lesser (who was not a political Zionist) relinquished his rabbinical position in Wheeling. The issue and the schism persisted into the rabbinates of his two successors, Moshay

P. Mann (1947–1948) and M. Nathaniel Bension (1948–1950), but all efforts to "repair the breach" and to induce the seceders from the congregation to rejoin it failed. As a result, the congregation was without the services of a permanent rabbi from September, 1946, to September, 1947, and even as late as 1958–1959, the seceding members and their families had not returned to their previous membership in Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

(In the latter part of 1961, Rabbi Charles B. Lesser left Denver, and went to Florence, S. C., to serve as rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel.)

MOSHAY P. MANN. Moshay P. Mann served as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, for the one-year period from September, 1947, to September, 1948. A very close personal friend, younger colleague, and correspondent of mine, he presented, in several noteworthy letters written to me, a picture of the above-alluded-to severe split in the Wheeling Reform congregation, which had taken place on the issue of political Zionism between the pro-Zionistic and non-Zionistic members of that congregation during the rabbinate of his predecessor, Charles B. Lesser, and had not yet been healed, with the result that his rabbinical functions and ministrations were so hampered that he felt it wise to leave the congregation at the end of one year. His successor, Rabbi M. Nathaniel Bension, also felt the adverse effects of this split and secession during his two-year rabbinate in the Wheeling congregation (1948–1950), and after 1950 all attempts to repair the secession and to induce the seceding members to return to the congregational fold were given up. Thereafter, apparently, the remaining hundred or fewer families and members of the congregation (94, in 1957–1958, according to the *U. A. H. C. Yearbook*) proceeded to "get along" without this dissident and disaffected group of their former co-members.

Moshay P. Mann was born in Warsaw, Poland, on February 21, 1917. After emigrating to the United States, he settled in New York City while still a comparative youth, where, in 1937, at the unusually early age of twenty years, he was ordained as an Orthodox rabbi at what is now known as Yeshiva University (then the Yeshivas

Rabbenu Yitzchak Elchanan), in New York, being a considerable rabbinic and Midrashic scholar, and later to be noted as a preacher in both English and Yiddish. He received the M.A. degree in February, 1943, from Western Reserve University, in Cleveland. His ordination by Yeshiva University in New York was at the hands of Rabbi Moshe Soloveitchik, former Talmudic expert at the Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, in New York. Moshay P. Mann is a member of the Speakers' Bureau of the Zionist Organization of America.

After serving as an Orthodox rabbi for seven years (from 1937 to 1944), Moshay P. Mann decided that he was suitable for the Reform rabbinate, rather than for the Orthodox rabbinate, because of his liberal views on preaching, on rabbinical and Jewish theology, and on modern Jewish practice and observance. He therefore decided to enter the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, in 1944, and he was ordained by the College only three years later, in June, 1947, at the same time receiving from the H. U. C. his M.H.L. degree. For about six weeks before his ordination by the H. U. C., in June, 1947, he served the Wheeling congregation Leshem Shomayim on a weekend basis, by request of the H. U. C. faculty, training and confirming its confirmation class in June, 1947, after the departure from the city of Rabbi Charles B. Lesser (some time previously) because of illness and other reasons. Moshay P. Mann, thereafter, served Congregation Leshem Shomayim for one year, from June, 1947, to June, 1948, as its resident rabbi. After a year of rabbinical research at the H. U. C. Library, subsequent to his leaving Wheeling (1948 to 1949), Rabbi Moshay P. Mann re-entered the active Reform rabbinate, serving in a Reform congregation from 1949 to 1951, and then serving as the rabbi of B'nai Israel Congregation (Conservative) in Albuquerque, N. Mex., from 1951 to 1954. From 1954 to 1956 he served as the rabbi of Temple Beth El, in Battle Creek, Mich., and in September, 1956, he was elected rabbi of Temple Sinai of South Shore, in Bay Shore, Long Island, N. Y. After serving for two years in the Bay Shore, Long Island, congregation, he was elected,

in September, 1958, rabbi of Congregation Beth Tefillah, in Brunswick, Ga. However, in the latter part of 1959, he returned to New York, having been elected rabbi of Congregation Ezrath Israel, more popularly known as the Actors' Temple, at 339 West 47th Street.

As Rabbi Moshay P. Mann himself describes it, "the highlights of my year in Wheeling were: the publication by one of the Wheeling newspapers of my sermon on 'Euthanasia'; the Memorial Day observance of May 30, 1948, which, in the form of a river celebration, signalizing the end of the Second World War, was a flower celebration, dedicated to the memories of those who lost their lives in the Second World War, with me being chosen as the main speaker at this unique observance; and my profound interest in the cause of Jewish education." [Hence his return to New York City in 1959.]

Rabbi Moshay P. Mann is noted as a Yiddish orator and linguist, partly due to his original deeply Orthodox and Hasidic background, and partly to his roots in the "Old World" (Poland), in which he lived for the first 16 or 17 years of his life.

M. Nathaniel Bension. M. Nathaniel Bension (originally, Moses Nathaniel Bension) succeeded Moshay P. Mann as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, in Wheeling, serving for the two-year period from September, 1948, to September, 1950. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 13, 1922. M. Nathaniel Bension received the B.A. degree from New York University in 1942, and then he entered the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, being ordained in June, 1946, and at the same time receiving his M.H.L. degree from the College. He had served as the assistant rabbi to Dr. Louis Wolsey, in Congregation Rodeph Shalom, in Philadelphia, from 1946 to 1948 before coming to Wheeling to become the rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple.

From 1950 to 1951, after leaving Wheeling, he served as an instructor at the Hebrew University, in Jerusalem, and then, most unusually, he went to Pretoria, in the Union of South Africa, where he served for three years (1951–1954) as the rabbi of the Pretoria Jewish Reform

Congregation. In 1954, he returned to the United States, living, studying, and working in the city of Philadelphia, and after three years of service here he was appointed (in September, 1957) director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Alabama, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. He still occupied this position in 1959–1960.

Of interest for the history of the Wheeling congregation is the following paragraph from Rabbi M. Nathaniel Bension's letter to me of February 12, 1957, written at Philadelphia:

"While in Wheeling, I witnessed the centennial of the Congregation. The celebration was — if I recall correctly — one week long, with a banquet somewhere in that period at the McLure Hotel. [Rabbi] Charles [E.] Shulman, of Riverdale, N. Y., was the guest speaker. The president of the Congregation was Sam Crone; his wife, Irma Crone, was president of the Sisterhood. (This must have been during 1949.) The next congregation president was Robert L. Levenson. Methinks Mrs. Irma Crone continued in the Sisterhood chair — an indomitable lady. The only other officer of the congregation whom I recall is John Wiseman, a personality that outshone his office — I don't remember what it was."

The 1948 annual State Sisterhood Convention was held in Wheeling in November, 1948, during Rabbi M. Nathaniel Bension's early months in Wheeling, and he participated in the Convention.

Joseph H. Freedman. Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman succeeded M. Nathaniel Bension as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, serving for almost seven years, most successfully, from September, 1950, to mid-1957. He was born in Waterbury, Conn., on March 17, 1914. He received the B.A. degree from Washington College in 1936, and the M.H.L. degree and his ordination in 1940 from the Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York. He then served, until July, 1942, as the rabbi of B'nai Israel Congregation, in Olean, N. Y.; in that month he was inducted into the United States Army as a chaplain, serving in the European theatre of war during the rest of the Second World War.

(The name of Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman is included in the *CCAR*, LVI [1946], in a List of Chaplains given before page 1.) Honorably discharged from the Army in 1945 with the rank of captain, he came to Wheeling in September, 1950, and served until the middle part of 1957, when he left Wheeling to become the rabbi of a new Reform congregation in Denver, Colo., Congregation Micah. In September, 1959, Joseph H. Freedman left Denver to go to Albany, Ga., where he became the rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel. During the years from 1945 to 1950, he had served as the rabbi of the Hebrew Friendship Congregation, in Harrisonburg, Va.

While he served Congregation Leshem Shomayim, he lectured frequently on Judaism, under the auspices of the J. C. S., like most of the West Virginia rabbis in the modern period, in a number of the colleges and universities of the State, including West Liberty College, in West Liberty, W. Va., and Bethany College, in Bethany, W. Va., and was deeply interested in the cause of Jewish education and in the work of the Hillel Foundation at West Virginia University, in Morgantown. He also compiled and published, at Wheeling, a Devotional Prayer Book, the sale of which was undertaken by the Wheeling Temple Sisterhood.

From 1955 to 1958, a three-year project was undertaken by the Wheeling Temple Sisterhood: the erection and fitting out of the new Temple of Congregation Leshem Shomayim (the Woodsdale Temple), which was begun and finished, and first occupied, in Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman's rabbinate, in 1956 and 1957. Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman also, in 1950, began the issuing of a congregational Bulletin, which had been allowed to lapse for a number of years.

Saul J. Rubin. Rabbi Saul J. Rubin succeeded Joseph H. Freedman in September, 1957, serving as the bi-weekly student rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim (now no longer known as the Eoff Street Temple, but by its new byname of The Woodsdale Temple). A native of Newark, N. J., he was, in June, 1958, ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati. He remained with the congrega-

tion as its part-time student rabbi for one year. About September 1, 1958, he became the rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation, in Gadsden, Ala.

In 1960, Saul J. Rubin was elected assistant rabbi of Congregation Beth Ahabah, in Richmond, Va.

WILLIAM A. ROSENTHALL. In September, 1958, William A. Rosenthall, a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., who was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in June, 1956, succeeded Saul J. Rubin as the permanent resident rabbi of The Woodsdale Temple (Congregation Leshem Shomayim). From 1957 to 1958, he had studied (graduate studies) in Israel and in Europe, and then he came to Wheeling in September, 1958.

In his letter to me of September 1, 1960, written at Wheeling, Rabbi William A. Rosenthall conveyed the following brief amplifying or corrective data with reference to his own biography:

"I was born in Kenton, Ohio, in 1927, and was educated there through high school. I graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University in 1950. I was ordained by the Hebrew Union College in 1956; I had served there as president of the Senior Class. I served as the assistant rabbi of Washington Hebrew Congregation in 1956–1957, and was in residence in Israel in 1957–1958. I have been the rabbi of the Woodsdale Temple from 1958 to the present. I married Irene Ostrower in 1957. My special interests are in Latin American Jewry and in Jewish art."

During his senior year at the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati, from 1955 to 1956, William A. Rosenthall served for a short time with Congregation Kol Shearith Israel, in Panama, the Republic of Panama. That congregation, one of several in that Central American country, is the only Sephardic (Spanish Jewish) synagogue in the world affiliated with the Reform Jewish movement.

In December, 1961, Rabbi William A. Rosenthall left Wheeling, having been appointed executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, which now has its new headquarters in New York City.

Martin Siegel. Rabbi Martin Siegel was, in May, 1962, elected spiritual leader of The Woodsdale Temple, of Wheeling. Ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in 1960, he served as a chaplain in the United States Navy from 1960 to 1962.

B'nai Israel Congregation

In October, 1907, there was organized, in Wheeling, the B'nai Israel Congregation, with Harry Sivitz as its president. Its synagogue was located (from 1907 to 1911, in rented temporary quarters) at the corner of Duval and Jefferson Streets. It was an Orthodox congregation. The dedication of the synagogue of B'nai Israel Congregation was held on September 15, 1911. Previously, its religious worship had, as it appears, been held in rented rooms in the downtown section of Wheeling.

Apparently, some time thereafter, this Orthodox congregation disappeared from the history of the Wheeling Jewish community, and it ceased to exist. Its place would appear to have been taken, as an Orthodox synagogue, by Ohav Sholem Congregation, which was organized in the year 1913 to 1914. Its membership would seem to have been merged with that of the latter congregation.

I have been able to find only the following item dealing with the "history" of B'nai Israel Congregation, of Wheeling: "B'nai Israel Congregation, located at Duval and Jefferson [Streets]. Organized in October, 1907. Harry Sivitz, president (*AJYB*, 1908–1909 [5669 A.M.], page 64). No names of rabbis of this congregation, or the exact year of its dissolution or merger, are known.

Ohav Sholem (Ohev Sholom) Congregation

Ohav Sholem Congregation, in Wheeling, an Orthodox congregation, was founded in 1913 to 1914 [5674 A.M.]; the exact date of its founding is no longer known. Its name is spelled in several other ways in the records of the Wheeling Jewish community and of the *AJYB*, especially in Volume 21, cited below in full, for the year 1919–1920 [5680 A.M.]. Such variant spellings are: Ohev Sholom, Oheb Sholem, and Oheb Sholom.

Ohav Sholem Congregation was founded in the period from

1913 to 1914 as an avowedly Orthodox congregation. Two of its most prominent organizers, builders, and officials were Henry [Henri] E. Front, grandfather of the present-day Reform Rabbi Henri E. Front; and Aaron Marcus, the late father of Professor Jacob R. Marcus, of the H. U. C. - J. I. R., of Cincinnati. Aaron Marcus served as its first president, from 1913 to 1915, when he removed to Farmington, W. Va. Henri E. Front served as its superintendent and as an officer for a number of years.

Formerly, Ohav Sholem Congregation had been the smaller Orthodox synagogue in Wheeling, and what is now the Synagogue of Israel, or the Edgington Lane Synagogue, was then the larger Orthodox congregation. When, apparently, Ohav Sholem Congregation was merged with the previously established B'nai Israel Congregation, Ohav Sholem Congregation remained, as it still does today, the only Orthodox congregation in Wheeling. It established its meeting place in the business section of the city, in rented rooms, it would appear, and it still does not have its own sanctuary or synagogue.

The names of only four of its rabbis over the years have been preserved. These were:

Isaac Cooper (from 1913 on)
M. Nathanson (1917–1919)
Albert Reznick (1919–1921)
Jacob Perilman (1921–1935)

Isaac Cooper was its first rabbi, having come to Wheeling in 1913, but it is not known for how many years he served. He had come to Wheeling from Jersey City, N. J. It is known that M. Nathanson was the rabbi of Ohav Sholem Congregation in the two-year period from 1917 to 1919, but he may have come to Wheeling before September, 1917. M. Nathanson (his full first name is now forgotten) was followed in the rabbinate of the congregation by Albert Reznick, whose years of service are recorded as having been 1919 to 1921. Jacob Perilman (sometimes erroneously given as I. Perilman in the records) came to Wheeling as the rabbi of Congregation Ohav Sholem in 1921, for the High Holy Day season, and served from at least that year through 1935, and possibly beyond the latter year. Thereafter, for a number of years, the congregation did not have a per-

manent rabbi, and there was, apparently, no permanent rabbi of the congregation in 1957–1958.

At the time of its founding, in 1913 to 1914 [5674 A.M.], its address was stated to be 1138 Main Street, and the name of Isaac Marcus was given as its secretary, and Isaac Cooper was named as its first rabbi. Its first president, and one of its founders, was the above-mentioned Aaron Marcus, who was the father of Isaac Marcus and of Professor Jacob R. Marcus. Isaac Marcus lived in Wheeling from 1907 to 1915, and then moved to Farmington, W. Va. From 1915 to 1922 he and other members of his family lived in Farmington, and then they moved to Pittsburgh. Isaac Marcus served as the secretary of Ohav Sholem Congregation for one year, from 1913 to 1914, and his father, Aaron Marcus, served as its president for two years, from 1913 to 1915, in which latter year he moved away from Wheeling and settled in Farmington, W. Va. In one of the records of the congregation there is a notation to the effect that: "Ohev Sholem Congregation (Orthodox) was the second Orthodox congregation to be organized in Wheeling. It was organized in 1913, and was situated in a hall at 1510 Market St., in the business section of the city. From 1921 to 1935 it was ministered to by the late Reverend Jacob Perilman."

Nothing further is known about Rabbi Isaac Cooper except that he was the first rabbi of Ohav Sholem Congregation, and that he came to Wheeling in 1913, shortly after the congregation was organized, presumably in September, from Jersey City, N. J., where his previous congregation was located. For many years the congregation kept no official records, evidently, and many of the records later kept have been destroyed or misplaced.

Early members of Ohav Sholem Congregation, as listed by Isaac Marcus in a letter to me written from Pittsburgh on March 16, 1958, included the Messrs. Front [Henry E. Front?], Grayefsky (later changed to Graves), Rothman, Schwartz, and Ungerleider. Isaac Marcus could not recall the first names of any of these early members of Ohav Sholem Congregation, and they have seemingly been lost for all time, with the loss of the original records covering them, or with their failure to be recorded.

On July 14, 1919, according to the record found in the below-

cited History of the Orthodox Jewish Cemetery Association Mount Wood, Wheeling, West Virginia, land in the Mount Wood Cemetery owned by Congregation Leshem Shomayim was deeded to Ohav Sholem Congregation by the Hebrew Cemetery Association of the Eoff Street Temple, with M. [Moses] Sonneborn as its president. At that time, the leaders of Ohav Sholem Congregation (the name was spelled as Ohab Sholem Congregation in this document) worked hard to organize and prepare this holy ground; in 1919–1920, among the leaders of Ohav Sholem Congregation, there are mentioned: Isadore Bloch, Sam Broverman, Max Goldberg, Sol Kerness, and Louis Levy. Those who served on the Cemetery Committee of Ohav Sholem Congregation, from 1920 on, when they were appointed, and who were reported to have made further progress in the development and beautification of the Ohav Sholem Congregation section of the Mount Wood Cemetery, were the following four members of the congregation: Harry Barrach, Sam Broverman, Nathan Sax, and Sam Sax.

The following account (one of the very few to be found in the volumes of the *AJYB*) of Ohav Sholem Congregation (spelled there as Ohev Sholom) for the year 1919–1920, above referred to, appears in Volume 21 of the *AJYB* (for 1919–1920, or 5680 A.M.), on page 579:

Congregation Ohev Sholom [of Wheeling, W. Va.]

An Orthodox congregation
Founded [organized] in 1912[1]
Located at 1433 South Street
Rabbi: Albert Reznick
President: B. I. Fain
Secretary: Joseph Kriegman
Superintendent: Henry E. Front[2]
46 members
Services held in Hebrew and Yiddish[3]

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[1] The date 1913–1914 for the organizing of Ohav Sholem Congregation is given in a previous volume of the *AJYB*, Volume 15 (1913–1914, or 5674 A.M.), page 413.

[2] The grandfather of Rabbi Henri E. Front.

[3] Apparently, only on the Sabbath, and not daily. Only the sermons were given in Yiddish, in all probability, and not the religious services.

Hebrew School, with 6 weekly sessions (Sundays and weekdays), 3 classes, 1 teacher, and 23 pupils[1]

Congregation Synagogue of Israel

The originally Orthodox Synagogue of Israel, known also as the Edgington Lane Synagogue, was organized in 1926 [according to some of the records, in 1924?] as an avowedly Orthodox congregation. In the course of the first three decades of its existence, it modified its Orthodoxy to a great extent, with the result that in 1957 its rabbi, Solomon Shoulson, who came to the congregation in 1954, and served as its rabbi until 1958, was able to describe it as a "Conservative synagogue and congregation." It built its own house of worship in 1927, only one year after the congregation was formed. In 1958–1959, the congregation also had, as its affiliates, a Hebrew School and a Ladies' Auxiliary; the latter was known officially as the Ladies' Organization of the Edgington Lane Synagogue.

Rabbis who have served The Synagogue of Israel from its founding in 1926 through the year 1958–1959 have been:

Bernard Cohen (1926–1928?)
Gershon Tolotchko (1928–1930?)
Louis Fischer (1930?–1935?)
Lewis Goldberg (1935–1937)
Nathan H. Levinson (1937–1939)
Bert [Bertram?] Klein (1939–1941)[2]
Joseph H. Wagner (1941 or 1942 to 1954)
Solomon Shoulson (1954–1958)
Robert A. Kaufman (1959–)

In 1956, Rabbi Solomon Shoulson wrote the following

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[1] This was, apparently, a combination Sunday School and Cheder, and the rabbi may have been the sole teacher of the Hebrew School or Cheder portion of the School.

[2] During a vacancy in the pulpit of the Edgington Lane Synagogue, from the latter part of the year 1941 until the arrival of Rabbi Joseph H. Wagner, either late in 1941 or early in 1942, Rabbi Lewis Goldberg directed the Hebrew School and ministered to the congregation.

A Brief History of The Synagogue of Israel [The Edgington Lane Synagogue] Wheeling, West Virginia

(by) Solomon Shoulson, Rabbi

which appeared in a Wheeling newspaper:

"The Synagogue of Israel, located on Edgington Lane, had its beginnings in 1924, when eleven men met at 221 Washington Avenue for the first time in the living room of Herman S. Levin. The construction of the present building was started in 1926, with its completion and dedication in 1927. The organization held its first service in the city at the Levin residence in the year 1924 for the High Holy Days in the presence of one Holy Scroll (Sefer Torah). Passover of April, 1927, saw its first service at the present location.

"Today [1956–1957] The Synagogue of Israel has a membership of 130, and a Synagogue School enrollment of over 120. [It has also a Hebrew School.] Despite the enlargement of the vestry four years ago, because of the growth of the Synagogue and of the Synagogue School, the membership has started an Expansion Fund for the purpose of enlarging the Synagogue School facilities with a new, modern, educational building, and also to enlarge the seating capacity of the Sanctuary for the High Holy Days. Other organizations and activities of the Congregation include:

"The Synagogue Sisterhood (which functions as a Ladies' Auxiliary)
"The Men's Club
"The Strictly Social [Club] and
"A Choir program for children and adults.

"Rabbi Solomon Shoulson has been with the Congregation since September, 1954. Herman S. Levin, who served as president of the Congregation for eighteen years, is now the president emeritus. Samuel Rudner is president of the Congregation [1956–1957], with Sam Stone as Chairman of the Board. Other

officers are: Max Horne, Al Zionts, and Sam Rosen. The Board members include: Henry Cohen, Jacob Dopkin, Joseph Edelman, Harry Greenwald, Harry Kramer, Henry Mayer, Edward Resnick, and Ben Rudner. The Synagogue of Israel is now a Conservative congregation."

In or about September, 1958, Rabbi Solomon Shoulson left Wheeling, to become the rabbi of Congregation Beth Judah, in Philadelphia.

JOSEPH H. WAGNER. Rabbi Joseph H. Wagner served as rabbi of The Synagogue of Israel from late 1941 or early 1942 to 1954. Born at New York City on October 12, 1915, he received the rabbinical degree (ordination) from the Orthodox Rabbinical Seminary of America, in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1937. In 1952 he received the A.B. degree from the College of Steubenville, in Steubenville, Ohio. In September, 1954, he left Wheeling to occupy a rabbinical position in either Portland, Ore., or Seattle, Wash., according to indistinct reports emanating from Wheeling. From 1939 to 1941 or 1942, before coming to Wheeling, he had served as the rabbi of a congregation in the town of Indiana, Pa.

SOLOMON SHOULSON. Rabbi Solomon Shoulson received the B.A. degree from Yeshiva College [Orthodox], in New York City, in 1947, and in 1949 he was ordained by Yeshiva College. He came to Wheeling in September, 1954, as the rabbi of The Synagogue of Israel. He served as its rabbi until the fall of 1958, when he left the congregation and the city, to settle in Philadelphia, where he became the rabbi of Congregation Beth Judah.

ROBERT A. KAUFMAN. In September, 1959, Rabbi Robert A. Kaufman (H. U. C. - J. I. R., New York, 1955) became the rabbi of The Synagogue of Israel, in Wheeling, succeeding Solomon Shoulson. (For additional data on the biography of Robert A. Kaufman, *see under* Morgantown, W. Va. His is thus an example of a Reform rabbi serving a Conservative and still partly Orthodox congregation.)

History of the Orthodox Jewish Cemetery Association Mount Wood, Wheeling, West Virginia

(July 27, 1956)

By Bertha G. Lazarus,
Secretary of the Orthodox Jewish Cemetery Association

"On March 22, 1866, this cemetery [the Mount Wood Cemetery] was incorporated by a group of Christians. The original grant was for fourteen acres, located on the south side of National Road, one mile from the Wheeling Post Office.

"The name is descriptive of the land, selected to be the final resting place of so many of the pioneers of Wheeling. [It is] situated high on a hill, overlooking the valley below, with the Ohio River like a shining satin ribbon, glistening in the sun. As one gazes far across the hills, there is peace and tranquility.

"Hand-written deeds in the [Ohio] County Court House show that 2,216 square feet were deeded to Samuel S. Bloch.[1] Samuel S. Bloch, on November 11, 1887, sold seven tracts of land. His purchasers were Simon Horkheimer, Charles Kraus, S. S. [Samuel S.] Bloch, D. Gundling, Bernard Horkheimer, M. H. Morris, and Emanuel Love.[2] On July 14, 1919, land was deeded to Ohav Sholem [Congregation] for burial purposes by the Hebrew Cemetery Association of the Eoff Street Temple by M. [Moses] Sonneborn, president. Another grant was made to the Orthodox Jewish Cemetery Association on August 23, 1934, signed by S. [Sigmund] S. Front, President of the Hebrew Cemetery Association. The leaders of Ohab [Ohav] Sholem [Congregation], namely, Isadore Bloch, Louis Levy, Sam Broverman, Sol Kerness, and Max Goldberg, worked hard to organize and prepare this holy ground.

"In 1920, the reins were placed in the hands of Harry Barrach

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[1] Samuel S. Bloch was an early member and officer of the Reform Congregation Leshem Shomayim, the Eoff Street Temple.

[2] All these were early members of Congregation Leshem Shomayim.

and, with the able assistance of Nathan Sax, Sam Sax, and Sam Broverman, further progress was made. During the year 1921, improvements were started: cement walls, walks, and the starting of the chapel. After four years of faithful service, Mr. Joseph Edelman, in December, 1925, took over the many important details, and has served his people to the present time, and, God willing, will for many years to come. Under his supervision the chapel was completed and still further improvements were made. The deteriorating back wall was renewed and more supports were added. Beautifications were started, and this has been continued down through the years.

"All burials are governed by the Book of Laws. During the years, four unnamed wayfarers came into our midst, and found holy ground for their eternal rest. They were accorded the respect and deference to which every Jew is entitled. According to the Book of Laws, the Holy Society [Chevrah Kaddisha] has the task of preparing the deceased for his final resting place. This has been faithfully carried on by the men and the women of the Holy Society. In fact, members of the Holy Society have answered the call in a radius of fifty miles.

"The present [July, 1956] officers are:

Joseph Edelman, Chairman of the Orthodox Jewish Cemetery Association
Bertha G. Lazarus, Secretary
Joseph Thompson, Treasurer

"The [members of the] Board of Directors are:

Nathan Harrison
Mrs. Nathan Harrison
Al. [Albert? Alfred?] Pearlman
Simon Rabinowitz
Robert S. Reiter

"A mutual understanding between the Hebrew Cemetery of the Eoff Street Temple and the Orthodox Jewish Cemetery Association has always existed. Expenses have been shared on improvements and upkeep, and [on] the salary needed for the

PLATE XLI

The Woodsdale Temple (Reform) (Edgwood Street and the Bethany Pike)

The new (1957) Temple of Congregation Leshem Shomayim in Wheeling, West Virginia

(see pages 1448–1451)

Temple B'nai Israel
of Williamson, W. Va.

1926–1948

(see pages 1579, 1588–1589, and 1598)

sexton. No other [Jewish] community has a better, well-kept, dignified, holy place for their people when they are called Home [after death]."

The Wheeling Sisterhood (the Sisterhood of Congregation Leshem Shomayim)

The Wheeling Sisterhood, or the Sisterhood of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, affiliated with the N. F. T. S. on January 22, 1913, with seventy members. The president of the Wheeling Sisterhood at that time was Mrs. Leon B. Stein, and its secretary was Mrs. Louis Horkheimer.

Up to the year 1907–1908, at least, and possibly even thereafter for some time, the Wheeling Sisterhood, or, as it was sometimes called, The Temple Sisterhood, of Congregation Leshem Shomayim, was known as the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, of the Eoff Street Temple. It had been organized under that title on February 6, 1874. Apparently, at some time within the period of a little more than a decade between 1907–1908 and 1919–1920, its name was officially changed to The Temple Sisterhood of Congregation Leshem Shomayim. In 1956–1957 it began to be called by the name of The Woodsdale Temple Sisterhood.

Mrs. Leo (Claudia) Wolf, in 1916–1917, served as a member of the Executive Committee of the N. F. T. S. Her term of office on the National Executive Committee continued, apparently, for at least a full decade, until 1927, when the record in the *AJYB* for 1926–1927 [5687 A.M.], page 321, showed that "Mrs. Leo Wolf was still serving in 1926 as a member of the Executive Board of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods."

In 1948 to 1950, Mrs. Irma (Sam) Crone served as president of the Wheeling Sisterhood. For years it has issued an annual (year book). Its officers for the year 1957–1958 (by which time it had begun to be called, officially, and noted in the State and local Sisterhood records as The Woodsdale Temple Sisterhood) were:

President: Mrs. Jerome (Myrna) Vertman
1st Vice President: Mrs. Harold Malkin
2nd Vice President: Mrs. Donald Levenson
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Seymour Michael
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Herbert Sonneborn, Jr.
Treasurer: Mrs. Jack Fleischman
Auditor: Mrs. Joseph Stearns

While he was serving as the rabbi of Congregation Leshem Shomayim (1950–1957), Rabbi Joseph H. Freedman, with the aid of the Sisterhood, published a Devotional Prayer Book; the Sisterhood undertook the sale of this volume. It also assisted financially in the erection of the new Woodsdale Temple of the congregation, in 1956–1957; made an annual pledge to the Building Fund; donated and dedicated the complete kitchen of the new synagogue.

In 1958–1959, the Wheeling Sisterhood membership was 65. At that time, Mrs. Jerome (Myrna) Vertman was again serving as the Sisterhood president. During the past several years Mrs. Alexander Wishnew was the librarian, and the organizer of the Woodsdale Temple Library.

Year Book of the Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood (1941–1942)

(Excerpts from the data and records of Rabbi George B. Lieberman)

[Program and Activities]

Social Activities
Philanthropic Work
Junior Choir Program
Membership Directory

Officers of the Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood, in 1941–1942

President: Mrs. Sidney (Jeannette B.) Good
Vice President: Mrs. Ernest [S.] Horkheimer

TREASURER: Mrs. D. Milton Gutman
RECORDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Simon Penn
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Sam [Irma] Crone
AUDITOR: Mrs. Ben Resnick

STANDING COMMITTEES [CHAIRMAN AND/OR CO-CHAIRMEN]

Ways and Means: Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Program for Sisterhood Meetings: Mrs. Maurice Naft
Public Relations and Hospitality: Mrs. Sam Good and Mrs. Sam Lipman
Refugee and Sisterhood News: Mrs. Herbert O. Baer
Sewing and Red Cross: Mrs. Charles Schlesinger, Mrs. David Tyler, and Mrs. Herbert Sonneborn
House: Mrs. David Tyler and Mrs. Max Horne
Religion: Mrs. Herman Cooper and Mrs. Harry Jacobs
Telephone: Mrs. William Combs and Mrs. Robert Levenson
Uniongrams and Stationery: Mrs. Seymour Shaw
Altar, Membership: Mrs. M. [Maurice] Kaufman and Mrs. Robert Levenson
Publicity: Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Jr.
Braille: Mrs. George Levenson and Mrs. Peter Front

PROGRAM FOR 1941–1942[1]

August, 1941

August 28th: Garden Party at the home of Mrs. Sidney [Jeannette B.] Good. Co-Hostesses: Mesdames Charles Sonneborn, Sr., and J. [Joseph] Meyer.

September, 1941

September: Card Party and Buffet Supper. Hostesses: Mesdames David Tyler, M. [Maurice] Kaufman, A. [Alfred] Arfield, and George Levenson.

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[1] Presented herewith as an example of a large Sisterhood's monthly program of meetings, events, and special features throughout an entire year.

October, 1941

October 7th: Tea and Musicale in the Temple Vestry. Welcome by Rabbi George B. Lieberman. Musicale arranged by Mrs. Clara Ceo.

October 10th: Phyllis Moir, Lecturer: "A Close-Up of Winston [S.] Churchill."

October 16th: Rummage Sale. Mrs. Ben Resnick, chairman.

October 20th: Card Party in the Vestry. Hostesses: Mesdames D. Milton Gutman, Ben Kapner, Harry Superior, Sigmund S. Front.

October 27th and 29th: Book Review: "Random Harvest," by Rabbi George B. Lieberman.

November, 1941

November 4th: Monthly Sisterhood Meeting and Luncheon. Mrs. Oscar Bender, of Philadelphia, speaker.

November 17th and 18th: Book Review of "You Can't Do Business with Hitler," by Rabbi George B. Lieberman.

November 17th: Card Party. Hostesses: Mesdames A. [Arthur] K. Clifford, Peter Front, Bernard Horkheimer, Julian Hast.

December, 1941

December 2nd: Sisterhood Meeting and Luncheon. Speaker, Mr. H. A. Bangert, of Weirton, W. Va., Service Director of [the] Weirton Steel [Company], formerly a special agent of the F. B. I. Subject: "Americanism and the Fifth Column."

December 4th: Turkey Supper and drawing for the Hope Chest Raffle.

December 8th and 9th: Book Review: "This Above All," by Rabbi George B. Lieberman, 8:15 [P.M.] in the Temple.

January, 1942

January 6th: Sisterhood Meeting and Luncheon. Speaker, Mrs. Harry O. Demmler, of Ben Avon Heights, Pa., speaking on "Fundamentals and Fashions in Photography."

January (Date to be announced): Card Party. Hostesses: Mesdames I. Farer, H. B. Copeland, and Paul Leach.

February, 1942

February 3rd: Sisterhood Meeting and Luncheon. Speaker, Mr. David Olbum, of Pittsburgh, Pa., prominent attorney and Director of Elections.

February (Date to be announced): Card Party. Hostesses: Mesdames William Combs, Simon Penn, Ben Resnick, and Maurice Naft.

March, 1942

March 3rd: Sisterhood Meeting and Luncheon. Speaker, Mrs. Alfred Jospe, of Morgantown, W. Va., formerly of Berlin.[1] Subject: "Jewish Women I Have Met in Palestine, Germany, and America."

March (Date to be announced): Bingo Party, sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee.

April, 1942
(Dates to be announced)

Rummage Sale in the Vestry.

Card Party. Hostesses: Mesdames Herbert Sonneborn, Sr., Louis Horkheimer, Seymour Michael, and John Wiseman.

May, 1942
(Date to be announced)

Card Party, with Mesdames Sam Rudner, Seymour Shaw, and Robert Levenson as hostesses.

June, 1942
(Date to be announced)

Rose Breakfast under the auspices of the Ways and Means Committee.

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[1] She was the wife of Rabbi Alfred Jospe, then Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at West Virginia University.

July, 1942

(Date to be announced)

Card Party at the home of Mrs. Ernest Horkheimer. Co-Hostesses: Mesdames Charles Schlesinger, Sam Crone, and Miss Flora Isenberg.

COMMITTEES

Ways and Means Committee:

Mrs. Joseph Meyer, CHAIRMAN

Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Mrs. Herbert O. Baer
Mrs. A. [Arthur] K. Clifford
Mrs. William Combs
Mrs. H. B. Copeland
Mrs. Sam Crone
Mrs. I. Farer
Mrs. Peter Front
Mrs. Sigmund S. Front
Mrs. Sam Good
Mrs. Sidney Good
Mrs. Julian Hast
Mrs. Bernard Horkheimer
Mrs. Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Mrs. Louis Horkheimer
Miss Flora Isenberg
Mrs. Ben Kapner
Mrs. M. [Maurice] Kaufman
Mrs. Paul Leach
Mrs. George Levenson
Mrs. Robert Levenson
Mrs. Sam Lipman
Mrs. Seymour Michael
Mrs. M. B. Miller
Mrs. Maurice Naft
Mrs. Simon Penn
Mrs. Ben Resnick
Mrs. Kermit Rosenberg
Mrs. Sam Rudner
Mrs. Charles Schlesinger
Mrs. Seymour Shaw
Mrs. Paul [J.] Silverberg
Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Sr.
Mrs. Herbert Sonneborn, Sr.
Mrs. Harry Superior
Mrs. Irvin Thal
Mrs. David Tyler
Mrs. John Wiseman

Turkey Supper [*Committee*]

CHARMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Mrs. Sidney Good

Hope Chest:

Mrs. John Wiseman
Mrs. Robert Levenson

Kitchen:
Mrs. Herbert Sonneborn

Tables:
Mrs. Charles Schlesinger
Mrs. Robert Levenson

Program:
Mrs. William Combs
Mrs. Sam Lipman

Patrons:
Mrs. Irvin Thal

Minstrel Show:
Mrs. M. [Maurice] Kaufman

Book Review Series:
Mrs. Ben Kapner

Junior Choir Activities

Succoth Eve . . . . . October 5th [1941]
Thanksgiving . . . . . November 21st [1941]
Chanukah . . . . . December 19th [1941]
Purim . . . . . February 27th [1942]
Passover . . . . . April 3rd [1942]
Mother's Day . . . . . May 8th [1942]
Shabuoth . . . . . May 22nd [1942]

Choir Girls

Mitzi Bales
Florence Berman
Laurelda Bloon [Bloom?]
Shirley Bobes
Edith Cooper
Anne Duga
Ruth Good
Dorothy Harrison
Eloise Jacobs
Audrey Lipp
Beverly Lipp
Gloria Malinger [Mallinger]
Naomi Rabinowitz, soloist
Ann Roman
Sonia Roman
Dehlia Wishnew
Pauline Zawitz
Mrs. David Tyler, Director
Mrs. Maurice Kaufman, Organist

Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood Members
(1941–1942)

A

Mrs. Hattie Andorn
Mrs. Alfred Arfield

B

Mrs. Herbert O. Baer
Mrs. Irwin H. Baer
Mrs. Sallie Baer
Mrs. Charles Baker
Mrs. David Banov
Mrs. C. L. Bauer
Mrs. Joseph Bernhardt
Mrs. Louis Broverman

C

Mrs. A. [Arthur] K. Clifford
Mrs. William Combs
Mrs. Herman Cooper
Mrs. H. B. Copeland
Mrs. Max Crone
Mrs. Sam Crone

D

Mrs. S. Davis
Mrs. Julius Dreyfuss

E

Mrs. Maurice Einson
Mrs. Clara Elikan

F

Mrs. I. Farer
Mrs. Jacques Front
Mrs. Peter Front
Mrs. S. [Sigmund] S. Front

G

Mrs. L. S. Good
Mrs. Sam Good
Mrs. Sidney Good
Mrs. D. Milton Gutman
Mrs. Will Gutman

H

Mrs. Julius Harr
Mrs. J. [Julian?] Hast
Miss Fannie Heyman
Mrs. Jesse Hipkins
(of Martins Ferry, Ohio)
Mrs. Bernard Horkheimer
Mrs. Ernest Horkheimer
Mrs. Louis Horkheimer
Mrs. Max Horne

I

Miss Flora Isenberg

J

Mrs. Harry Jacobs

K

Mrs. Ben Kapner
Mrs. M. [Maurice] Kaufman
Mrs. Eda Kelly
Mrs. Fannie Kline

L

Mrs. Paul Leach
Mrs. George Levenson
Mrs. Robert Levenson

Mrs. Carrie Levy
Mrs. Sam Lipman

M

Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Mrs. Seymour Michael
Mrs. M. B. Miller
Mrs. Ralph Miller

N

Mrs. Maurice Naft

P

Mrs. Simon Penn

R

Miss Jennie Reich
Mrs. M. Reichblum
Mrs. Ben Resnick
Mrs. E. Roman
Mrs. Kermit Rosenberg
Mrs. E. Rothenberg
Mrs. Sam Rudner
(of Martins Ferry, Ohio)
Mrs. Sam Rybeck

S

Mrs. Charles Schlesinger
Mrs. Seymour Shaw
Mrs. P. [Paul] J. Silverberg
Mrs. H. Smith
Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Sr.
Mrs. H. Sonneborn
Mrs. Mal Sonneborn
Mrs. C. J. Stein
Mrs. Leon Stein
(of Louisville, Ky.)
Mrs. Harry Superior

T

Mrs. Irvin Thal
Mrs. David Tyler

W

Mrs. Philip Weiner
Mrs. J. Weinstein
Mrs. John Wiseman
Mrs. Alex [Alexander] Wishnew
Mrs. Elsie Wolfe
(of Martins Ferry, Ohio)

(Total, 79 members, of whom 3 lived in Martins Ferry, Ohio, and 1 in Louisville, Ky., in 1941–1942.)

Advertisements, Greetings, and Compliments in the 1941–1942 Wheeling Sisterhood Year Book[1]

Armstrong Quaker Rugs
*Reichart Furniture Company [Sidney L. Good], 1121 Main Street, Wheeling

[1] This list, in which both local and nonlocal advertisers are included, provides some data on the occupations, professions, or businesses of some of the Jews of Wheeling at that time. Those firms and individuals whom I can definitely identify as Jewish are marked with an asterisk.

Wheeling News-Register and *Wheeling Intelligencer*
Security Trust Company
Warwood Transfer Company
*L. S. Good & Company
Zeller's Steak House, 1429 Market Street
Sedgwick Printing Company, of Martins Ferry, Ohio
*Rudner Furniture Company (Sam Rudner), of Martins Ferry, Ohio
*The Hub Gift Center
Milk Dealers Association
Donald Habig (compliments)
Nathan Krause Delicatessen, 68 12th Street
Tom's, Edgington Lane
Wheeling Electric Company
Sterling Gasoline
*Dave Banov (compliments)
Cloverdale Milk — Ziegenfelder Ice Cream
Costanzo Coal Mining Company, Warwood
Norteman's Wonder Ham [*sic*!]
W. A. Driehorst Company
Evans Monuments, 223 Main Street, Bridgeport [Ohio]
*Max Crone & Co., of 1310 Market Street (clothing)
W. S. Foose and Company Insurance
Ohio Valley Advertising Company
Wheeling Cab Company
King Jewelry Company
*Edward M. Jacobs, of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company
*Dr. L. M. Polan, 1322 Market Street
Edwin Spears Auto Supply Stores
Earle Rogers Furniture Company, Main and 12th Streets
Pure Oil Company, Chapline and 16th Streets
Dulaney Motor Company (Studebaker)
*Penn Jewelry Company, 1222 Market Street
W. A. Wilson & Sons, paints and glass
John Wenzel Company
A. E. Devorace auto service

Tucker & Tucker, hatters, 1207 Market Street
Lane Market, 114 Edgington Lane
McLure Barber Shop (Anton R. Ernst)
*Charles and Milton Schlesinger, insurance
Reymann Coal Company
Hoge-Davis Drug Company
*Herman Levin (compliments)
Darling Shop
Simon White's Sons, monuments, 1117 Chapline Street
Butler Florist
Rogers Jewelry Company
Henderson's, 12th and Chapline Streets (soda, ice cream, and restaurant)
Lee C. Paull Inc., insurance
Charles N. Hancher, jeweler, 1223 Market Street
Ralph Whitehead, insurance
Winiesdorffer, 2228 Market Street
*Superior's (clothing) 1045 Main Street
Far East Restaurant (Chinese-American), 1517 Market Street
Pike Pharmacy (R. R. Wilson, Proprietor) (Woodsdale)
Bolton's
Leon Beauty Shop (El Villa, National Road) (Mildred Hartzell, manager)
*Eda Kelly Lending Library
Home Pearl Laundry
Bud Near transportation
Blake's, Inc., Cream, 93 16th Street
McLure Hotel
*Bernard and Ernest Horkheimer (compliments)
A. E. Masten & Co., investment brokers, City Bank Building, 1300 Market Street (Louis F. Brand, resident partner)
Windsor Hotel
Scott Lumber Company, 1112 Chapline Street
Community Cleaners
McGrail's Jewelry Store, 1228 Market Street
A. Kutsch & Sons, Inc., linoleum and asphalt and marble tile, 70–72 16th Street

Hartman, Inc., insurance and investments, Central Union Building
*Wiener Office Equipment, 40 14th Street
Elmer E. Schweizer, auto rebuilding
*Posin's Jewelers
Rawlings Opticians Inc., 62 12th Street
El Villa Grill
*Mr. and Mrs. Paul Leach (compliments)
*Rubin Brothers Army and Navy Supply Store, 1104 Main Street
Schenk Markets, Inc.
Footers Cleaners and Dyers
Valley Camp Coal Co., Elm Grove
Olmstead Paper, 1413–1415 Main Street
Bertschy's home furnishings and electrical appliances, 1122–1124 Main Street
*Dr. S. L. Shaw (compliments)
Antler Restaurant, 1139 Main Street
*C. [Charles] and H. [Harry] Banov (compliments)
Grumet's Market
*Mr. and Mrs. H. [Herman] Mallinger (compliments)
Gutbro Construction Co., 1523 Market Street
*Horne's, 11th and Main Streets
Central Window Cleaning Co., 1152 Water Street
Pfister's Bakery, 48 11th Street
*M. B. Miller (compliments)
McClaskey Cleaners
Field's children's wear, 1064 Main Street
The Joy Shop
Wheeling Linen Supply Co.
*Bernhardt's
Cash & Carry Lumber
*Dr. and Mrs. Kermit Rosenberg (compliments)
*Herman Strauss (compliments)
Imperial Ice Cream Co.
Griest Cut Rate Stores, 1406 and 1155 Market Street
Harold O. Etz
Men's Shop, 1055 Market Street

B. and L. Super Market, 1316 Market Street (J. W. Breeden, manager)
Klieves Lumber Co., 31st and Eoff Streets

(From the back cover of the *Year Book* of the Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood, 1941–1942)

[The] Philanthropic Fund Aids:

American Red Cross
Family Service Association
Opportunity School for Underprivileged Children
Community Fund of Wheeling
Ohio Valley General Hospital
Florence Crittendon Home
The United Jewish Appeal
Erie Orphanage
National Farm School of Philadelphia
Denver Hospital for Consumptives [National Jewish Hospital at Denver]
British War Relief [only in the Second World War]
Jewish Braille of West Virginia
Hadassah Welfare
Hebrew Union College
Claudia Wolf Foundation at Morgantown

Presidents of the Wheeling Sisterhood from 1955 to the Present

Mrs. Helen (Kermit A.) Rosenberg: 1955–1957
Miss Myrna Penn: 1957–1959
Mrs. Sonia (Irving A.) Gardner: 1959 to the present (re-elected in 1960)

The Sisterhood Board of Directors [1960]
Sisterhood Executive Committee

President: Mrs. Irving A. (Sonia) Gardner
1st Vice President: Mrs. Fred Horne
2nd Vice President: Mrs. George [A.] Levenson

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Harry Robbin
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Arthur Gross
Treasurer: Mrs. Albert Burnstein
Auditor: Mrs. Sam Crone

Standing Committee Chairmen

Circle Co-ordinator: Mrs. George Levenson
Floral-Remembrance Funds: Mrs. Irwin Clark
Ceremonials: Mrs. Morris Lando
Religious School: Mrs. Philip Eisenberg
Dis. Funds: Mrs. Robert Levenson
Telephone-Press: Mrs. George Atkin
Social: Mrs. Fred Horne
Program: Mrs. Seymour Michael
Membership-Hospitality: Mrs. Joseph Strauss
Uniongram: Mrs. Sidney Good
House: Mrs. Sidney Colson
Parliamentarian: Mrs. Charles Stein
(District [W. V. F. T. S.] President)
Immediate Past President: Miss Myrna Penn

The Wheeling Sisterhood in the State Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

Three State Sisterhood Conventions were held in Wheeling, as follows:

in 1927
in 1937
in 1948

A fourth State Sisterhood Convention also was held at Wheeling: that of the year 1959, the 31st General Assembly, held on April 14 to 15, 1959. *See below*, pages 1517–1518.

1921–1922

Meetings for the purpose of seeking to organize a West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods were held in Wheeling in 1921 and 1922. Unfortunately, the minutes and records for both these years have been lost. Ever since that time the Wheeling Sisterhood has been an important and very active

member of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. The actual organizational (organizing) meeting was subsequently held in Charleston on April 17 to 19, 1923, which (in view of the loss of the earlier records) is considered to be the official date of its founding and of the first annual convention.

1923–1924

Mrs. Leo (Claudia) Wolf, of Wheeling, served as president of the W. V. F. T. S. from 1923 to 1924, having been elected to this post at the First State Convention, held at Charleston on April 17 to 19, 1923. From 1924 to 1925 she served as the elected honorary president of the State Federation. Mrs. M. [Max] Bachenheimer, of Wheeling, was, in April, 1923, elected to the position of corresponding secretary of the State Federation, and she served in this position from 1923 to 1924.

1924–1925

Mrs. M. [Max] Bachenheimer, of Wheeling, served as the field secretary of the State Federation from 1924 to 1925.

1927

The 5th annual State Convention of the W. V. F. T. S. was held at Wheeling on March 28 to 30, 1927.

1937–1938

The 15th annual State Convention of the Temple Sisterhoods was held at Wheeling on October 17 to 18, 1937, with the then president, Mrs. Abraham N. (Sarah A.) Schlossberg, of Bluefield, in the chair. At this convention, Mrs. Charles (Reba B.) Cohen, of Charleston, was appointed State parliamentarian; this was the first time that the State Federation had appointed a parliamentarian, and Mrs. Charles Cohen was still serving in this position in 1958–1959.

In 1937–1938, Mrs. Herbert O. Baer, of Wheeling, was recording secretary of the State Federation of Sisterhoods.

(*See below*, under the B'nai B'rith of Wheeling, for further data on the State Sisterhood, and on its joint convention, held in

Wheeling, together with the State Council of the B'nai B'rith, on October 17 to 18, 1937.)

1948

The 26th annual State Convention of the Temple Sisterhoods was held at Wheeling on November 28, 1948, with Mrs. Nathan (Anna A.) Effron, of Bluefield, then the State president, in the chair. The theme of this convention was, "To Promote the Spirit of Religion." Mrs. C. C. Strassburger, of Knoxville, Tenn., a member of the Board of the N. F. T. S., delivered the main address, on "Living Our Religion through Sisterhood." Rabbi Eugene E. Hibshman, then of Ohev Sholom Congregation, in Huntington, installed the officers for the year 1948–1949. Mrs. Sigmund (Libby) Braverman, of Cleveland, conducted a symposium on "Problems of the Religious School." Mrs. C. C. Strassburger also conducted the "Presidents' Problem Hour," speaking on "The Qualifications and Responsibilities of Leadership." The annual banquet address was given by Dean Forrest E. Kirkpatrick, of Bethany College, Bethany, W. Va., on the subject, "Standing Up to the Future."

1951

Mrs. Seymour Michael, of Wheeling, was elected treasurer of the W. V. F. T. S. at the Charleston State Convention of September 23 to 24, 1951, to serve for the two-year period 1951 to 1953. Mrs. Robert (Helen) Levenson, also of Wheeling, was elected State auditor for the same term.

1954

On September 21, 1954, the Northern Regional meeting of the State Federation was held in Wheeling, with Mrs. William Leffler, of New York, the National Chairman of District Federations of the N. F. T. S., as the main speaker, representing the National Federation.

When, in 1951, a change in the State Sisterhood constitution provided for State conventions only every other year, instead of

annually, as theretofore, and for regional or district conventions in alternate years, the Wheeling Sisterhood was put in the Northern Region or District, together with Fairmont, Huntington, Morgantown, and Parkersburg.

1955–1957

Mrs. Charles (Janis) Stein, of Wheeling, was elected 2nd vice president of the State Sisterhood at the Morgantown convention, held on October 16 to 17, 1955, to serve for the two-year term 1955 to 1957. From 1955 to 1957, Mrs. Charles Stein served also as the chairman of Department No. 4, Membership and Administrative Services, of the State Federation; and Mrs. Jerome (Myrna) Vertman served as the chairman of its Stationery Committee. Also, Mrs. Joseph H. Freedman, wife of the then rabbi of the Eoff Street Temple, served as State Chairman of the Jewish Ceremonials and Arts Committee of the State Federation.

1957–1959

For the two-year term 1957 to 1959, Mrs. Charles (Janis) Stein, of Wheeling, was elected 1st vice president of the State Federation, at the biennial State Convention held in Parkersburg on October 20 to 21, 1957. For the same two-year term, Mrs. Charles Stein served also as the chairman of the Department of Religion and Education of the State Sisterhood. From 1957 to 1959, Mrs. Robert (Helen) Levenson, of Wheeling, served as the chairman of the Fund-Raising Committee of the State Sisterhood; and Mrs. Kermit (Helen) Rosenberg served as the chairman of the Religious School Committee of the State Sisterhood.

1959

The 31st General Assembly of the W. V. F. T. S. took place in Wheeling, at the McLure Hotel and in the new Woodsdale Temple, on April 14 to 15, 1959, with 97 delegates and visitors in attendance, and with the rabbis of the Wheeling (William A.

Rosenthall), Charleston (Samuel Volkman) and Huntington (Theodore S. Levy) congregations in attendance. The main speaker at the convention was Mrs. Irving E. Hollobow, of Evanston, Ill., N. F. T. S. 1st vice president, who spoke before the assembly on the subject, "The Pattern for Sisterhood." For this Wheeling General Assembly, Mrs. Jerome (Myrna) Vertman served as chairman, and the co-chairmen were Mrs. Joanne (Mrs. Jack) Kaufman and Mrs. Kermit (Helen) Rosenberg.

The Wheeling Temple Youth Group

Mrs. Sylvia Robbin served as adult adviser to the Temple Youth Group in 1956–1957, the year when this Youth Group was organized. In 1957 to 1958, Mrs. Adelson was its adviser. Eleanor Schwartz, Associate Director of the N. F. T. Y., came to Wheeling and addressed the Youth Group in 1958. In 1959, Karen Rosenberg was president of the Woodsdale Temple Youth Group.

Karen Rosenberg served in her office until 1960, when Nedra Colson was elected president of the Woodsdale Temple Youth Group.

The Wheeling B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 615

The B'nai B'rith Lodge of Wheeling, Wheeling Lodge, No. 615, has been in existence for more than half a century. In 1907–1908, according to an early record, Joseph Raduziner was its secretary. Nathan (Nate) Harrison has been active in the Wheeling Lodge for many years, and, on the B'nai B'rith State Council level, he has interested himself for a considerable number of years in the work of the Hillel Foundation at Morgantown.

Sigmund S. Front served as the president of Wheeling Lodge, No. 615, for several years in the late 1920's, according to the Lodge's sporadic and incomplete records. Sidney L. Schwartz

[Schwarz] served as president of the State Council of the B'nai B'rith from 1941 to 1943.

(From the files and records of Rabbi George B. Lieberman)

Officers of the Wheeling B'nai B'rith Lodge [No. 615] in 1937

President: Sidney L. Schwarz
Vice President: Jack Frank
Monitor: Maurice Kaufman
Assistant Monitor: Herman Cooper[1]
Secretary: Will [William] Raduziner
Treasurer: I. [Isador] Farer
Financial Secretary: Dr. Herman Block
Warden: Max Ernst
Guardian: Dr. Louis Broverman

Trustees

Louis Horkheimer
Samuel Good
Dr. H. B. Copeland

West Virginia B'nai B'rith Council Officers in 1937 [West Virginia State Council]

President: Lawrence M. Brile, of Fairmont
First Vice President: Isadore Cohen, of Bluefield
Second Vice President: J. C. Broida, of Parkersburg
Secretary: S. [Simon] D. Goodman, of Fairmont
Treasurer: Louis Hiller, of Clarksburg

Director of the Hillel Foundation [at West Virginia University, in Morgantown]: Rabbi Bertram Klausner, of Fairmont

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[1] After whom the Lodge was later named.

PROGRAM OF THE
JOINT CONVENTIONS
[OF THE]
WEST VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
AND
WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF B'NAI B'RITH LODGES
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

October 17 and 18, 1937

WEST VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS

STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Abraham N. [Sarah A.] Schlossberg, of Bluefield
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Mrs. Paul Broida, of Parkersburg
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Mrs. David [Reba] Freed, of Beckley
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Harry [Rose A.] Clark, of Bluefield
RECORDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Herbert O. Baer, of Wheeling
TREASURER: Mrs. Max Frankenberger, of Charleston
AUDITOR: Mrs. Louis Engelman, of Parkersburg
FIELD SECRETARY: Mrs. Samuel [D.] Lopinsky, [of Charleston]

STATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Cooperation: Mrs. Lester Pollock, of Huntington
Cradle Roll: Mrs. Hyman Bank, of Williamson
Braille Jewish Literature: Mrs. J. [Joseph] I. Kwass, of Charleston
Honor Roll: Mrs. David Tyler, of Wheeling
Sisterhood News: Mrs. A. L. Rosenblatt, of Charleston
Religion: Mrs. Harry Glick, of Huntington
Peace: Mrs. Peter Front, of Wheeling
Stationery: Mrs. Leo K. Nabe, of Williamson
Student Activity: Mrs. Samson [Lillian] Finn, of Morgantown

Hebrew Union [College] Scholarship: Mrs. Isadore [Anna H.] Katzen, of Welch
Speakers' Bureau: Mrs. Ben [Lena] Shore, of Montgomery
Uniongrams: Mrs. Joseph B. Hearst, of Fairmont
Young People's Temple League: Mrs. Charles [Reba B.] Cohen, of Charleston[1]

B'NAI B'RITH CONVENTION PROGRAM

Sunday, October 17, 1937

11.30 A.M. to 2.30 P.M. Registration.....Windsor Hotel Mezzanine
2.30 P.M. Business Meeting.....Windsor Hotel
"America".....Assembly
Call to Order and Address of Welcome...Sidney L. Schwarz
President of the Wheeling Lodge
Response.....Lawrence M. Brile
President of the West Virginia B'nai B'rith Council
Reports of the West Virginia Lodges.....Representatives
General Business of the Council
Special Business of the Council
Reports of Special Committees
Reports of Heads of Committees as appointed by the President of District [Grand Lodge] No. 3
5.30 P.M.....Adjournment Exercises
6.30 P.M. Supper.....Windsor Hotel
8.00 P.M. Evening Services.....Eoff Street Temple
10.00 P.M. to 12.00 P.M. [Midnight]
Reception.....Hotel Windsor

SISTERHOOD CONVENTION PROGRAM

Sunday, October 17, 1937

11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. Registration.....Hotel Windsor
2.30 P.M. Executive Board Meeting.....Hotel Windsor
Invocation: Mrs. A. H. Fink, of Fairmont
Business Meeting
Benediction.....Mrs. Gus Forman, of [the] Kimball, Keystone, and Northfork [Sisterhood]

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[1] This group would appear to have been the forerunner of the Woodsdale Temple Youth Group, organized in 1956–1957.

4.30 P.M. Sightseeing Trip

6.30 P.M. Supper.....Windsor Hotel

8.00 P.M. Temple [Evening] Services.....Eoff Street Temple

Address of Welcome.....Sidney Good
President of the Eoff Street Temple

Greetings.....Mrs. Sigmund S. Front
President of the Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood

Response.....Mrs. Abraham N. Schlossberg, of Bluefield
President of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

Greetings:.....Sidney L. Schwarz
President of the B'nai B'rith Lodge, Wheeling

Response.....Lawrence M. Brile, of Fairmont
President of the West Virginia Council of the B'nai B'rith

Ritual.....Rabbi Bertram Klausner, of Fairmont

Violin Solo.....David Daniels

Sermon: "Master Builders Among Us".....Rabbi George B. Lieberman, of Wheeling

Adoration.....Rabbi Ariel L. Goldburg, of Charleston

Tribute to Claudia W. Wolf.....Mrs. M. R. Elikan, of Wheeling

Benediction.....Rabbi Julius Kravetz, of Bluefield

Music....Temple Juniors' Choir
Directress, Mrs. David Tyler
Organist, Mrs. Maurice Kaufman

Reception.....Windsor Hotel

B'NAI B'RITH CONVENTION PROGRAM

Monday, October 18, 1937

9.30 A.M. Opening Session.....Eoff Street Temple Vestry

Completion of Business Routine

Informal Discourses:

Rabbi Ariel L. Goldburg, of Charleston

Rabbi Bertram Klausner, of Fairmont

Rabbi Julius Kravetz, of Bluefield

Rabbi Nathan Levinson, of Wheeling
The Edgington Lane Synagogue

Rabbi George B. Lieberman, of Wheeling
The Eoff Street Temple

Informal Discussion
B'nai B'rith Activities.....Lawrence M. Brile [of Fairmont]

12.30 P.M. Lunch.....Windsor Hotel

AFTERNOON SESSION

(open for attending the Symposium of the Sisterhood, or for sightseeing)
(at the discretion of the delegates)

6.45 P.M. Banquet.....McLure Hotel
(in conjunction with the Sisterhood)

10.30 P.M. Dancing.....McLure Hotel

SISTERHOOD CONVENTION PROGRAM

Monday, October 18, 1937

9.30 A.M. Opening Session Hotel Windsor
Formal Opening of the Convention.....Mrs. Abraham N. Schlossberg, of Bluefield
President of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
Invocation.....[The] Clarksburg [Sisterhood]
Business Meeting
President's Message.....Mrs. Abraham N. Schlossberg
Appointment of Special Committees
Peace Sketch — "Something to Do".....Mrs. Charles [Reba B.] Cohen, of Charleston

12.30 P.M. Luncheon.....Windsor Hotel
Invocation.....[The] Williamson [Sisterhood]
Address: "Great Artists I Have Known"...Mrs. Miriam E. Cramer, of Cleveland, Ohio

AFTERNOON SESSION

Windsor Hotel, 2.15 P.M.

Invocation.....[The] Morgantown [Sisterhood]
Reports of Special Committees
Election of Officers
New Business
Installation of [the] New Officers.....Rabbi Julius Kravetz, of Bluefield

Symposium:

"What We Jews Can Still Believe in This Modern World"

Mrs. I. B. Romer.....of Huntington
Mrs. Henry [Anna G.] Rodgin.....of Bluefield
Rabbi Ariel L. Goldburg.....of Charleston

Rabbi Julius Kravetz.....of Bluefield
Rabbi Bertram Klausner.....of Fairmont

General Discussion

Benediction.....Mrs. Irving [Edna B.] Goldstein, of Beckley
Adjournment

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[Evening Session]

6.45 P.M. Banquet.....McLure Hotel Ballroom
Mrs. Ben Kapner, Toastmistress
Invocation.....Mrs. Sam Rybeck, of Wheeling
Solo.....Mrs. Elsa Duga
(a) "Vissi d'Arte" (Tosca).....Puccini
(b) "Let All My Life Be Music".....Spross
(Jessie Wolf Lipphardt, accompanist)
Address: "Americanism and Judaism".....Lawrence M. Brile, of Fairmont
Address: "New Havens of Hope".....Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner, of Cleveland
Benediction.....Mrs. Isadore Katzen, of Welch
Dancing.....Nils Capr Orchestra

OFFICERS OF THE WHEELING SISTERHOOD

(1937–1938)

President: Mrs. Sigmund S. Front
Vice President: Mrs. Sidney Good
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Herbert O. Baer
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Charles Schlesinger
Treasurer: Mrs. Max Crone
Auditor: Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Sr.

CONVENTION CHAIRMEN

General Chairman: Mrs. Ben Kapner
Advisory Chairman: Mrs. Max Bachenheimer
Printing: Mrs. Herbert O. Baer and Mrs. Seymour Michael [co-chairmen]
Hospitality: Mrs. Louis Horkheimer and Mrs. Sam Good [co-chairmen]

Publicity: Mrs. Irwin Baer
Transportation: Mrs. Simon Penn and Mrs. Sam Lippman [co-chairmen]
Reservations: Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Sr.
Registration: Mrs. Max Crone

The Religious School of the Woodsdale Temple

The Religious School of the Woodsdale Temple, in 1959–1960, consisted of ten grades in addition to the Kindergarten. There were 14 members of the faculty, and the enrollment of the pupils was approximately 80 as of 1959–1960, which reflects a gradual increase in the number of pupils. The congregation at that time had 125 family units.

At the end of the academic year 1959–1960, the sum of $150 was distributed by the students of the Temple Religious School to the following organizations, as donated in the weekly charity collections:

Combined Campaign of the H. U. C. - J. I. R.	$25
Alliance Israélite Universelle	25
Leo Baeck School, Haifa, Israel	25
Youth Aliyah [of Hadassah]	25
Keren-Or (the Jerusalem school for blind children)	20
Agadir [Morocco] Relief Fund	15
Keren Yaldenu	15

The Woodsdale Temple Men's Club

In 1959, the Woodsdale Temple Men's Club joined the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, with its headquarters in New York City. In that year George A. Levenson served as its president.

Presidents of the Temple Men's Club

Arnold Phillips: 1958–1959
George A. Levenson: 1959 to the present [re-elected in 1960]

In 1960, the Woodsdale Temple Men's Club adopted, and performed, as its project, the plastering and painting of the schoolrooms of the new Temple. Charles Stein donated the required paints, and Sidney Colson other supplies. Albert Burnstein served as chairman of the project, assisted by the following co-chairmen: William Wishnew, Sidney Colson, and Philip Eisenberg. Other workers on this project included: Al Farer, Kermit Rosenberg, Jr., Kermit Rosenberg, Sr., Samuel Newman, Arnold Lazarus, Laurance Good, and Ronald Atkin.

The Jewish Central Committee [of Wheeling]

(From the files and records of Rabbi George B. Lieberman)

Reports of Campaigns Including the List of Contributors and of All Beneficiary Organizations

Report of the 1937 Campaign as of December 31, 1937

Foreword by Ernest [S.] Horkheimer, President, addressed To the Jewish Community of Wheeling:

. . . . The Jewish Central Committee was organized to conserve dollars, to save time, and to minimize time consumed. Every campaign must have workers to solicit funds, and when there are numerous campaigns for relatively the same purpose, you can readily see where some workers serve several . . . . The expense of setting up each campaign, the annoyance and time of those solicited, are all minimized in one coordinated and cooperative effort, which also makes for increased efficiency.

. . . the [Jewish] Central Committee enables us not only to face our obligations more intelligently, but it enables us to distribute the funds which we give in a more equitable manner and avoids annoyances and loss of patience.

But we have not reached the obligation which a city the size and wealth of Wheeling should or can shoulder. To increase our fund, therefore, we must heartily recommend that all

solicitations for Jewish causes be referred to the [Jewish] Central Committee's office. If their cause is just and meritorious, they will be included among our constituents, and proper funds will be allocated to them. If their cause is not worthy, we shall turn them down. If we are forced to do the latter, because of lack of reason or excuse for the particular organization's existence, certainly you should do the same.

By indiscriminate giving, you encourage indiscriminate calls, and the grouping together of many small gifts encourages an early return. Upon investigation we have found that the expense of some solicitations runs as high as seventy-five per cent, which means that when you give a dollar to an organization of this type, twenty-five cents goes to the object of your beneficence and seventy-five cents goes to support the organization distributing your funds . . . . One hundred per cent of the money which we raise is distributed . . . .

Subscribers
Jewish Welfare Drive and United Jewish Appeal[1]

A

Harry Abrams
Alfred Arfield

B

Ben F. Baer
Irwin H. Baer
Herbert O. Baer
Amelia Bachenheimer
C. [Charles] and H. [Harry] Banov
David Banov
C. [L.] Bauer
L. Bazzel
Bessie Bernhart [Bernhardt]
Jerry [H.] Bernhart [Bernhardt]
Joseph Birnkrant

[1] The amounts which each person of the Jewish community of Wheeling listed below gave to the United Jewish Appeal Drive and to the Jewish Welfare Drive are recorded in each of the following yearly reports, for 1937, 1939, 1942–1943, and 1943–1944, as listed in separate columns, but all these sums and amounts are omitted here, of course.

The contributors to the funds of the Jewish Central Committee represent, of course, the membership of all the three Jewish congregations of Wheeling. It is probable, of course, that some Jewish residents of Wheeling were noncontributors.

L. Bingel
Fannie Bloch
A. Bobes
Charles Bobes
H. Branner
Dr. Louis [E.] Broverman

C

Dr. Ben C. Caplan
A. [Arthur] E. Clifford
Harry Cohen
W. [William] S. Combs
L. [Herman L.?] Cooper
Dr. H. B. Copeland
Ernest Crone
Max Crone
Sam Crone

D

Dr. David Danenberg
David Daniels
Sam Davis
J. Dreyfuss
Julia Dreyfuss
Fannie Dubbs

E

Max Earnest
G. Emsheimer
Saul Enelow
Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood
Eoff Street Temple Sunday School Children

F

J. [H.] Feingold
Max Feingold
Sam Feingold
T. [Ted] Feldman
J. [Jack?] Frank
S. K. Frank
A. J. and H. N. Friedman
Jacques Front
P. [Peter?] Front
Sam Front
Sig [Sigmund S.] Front

G

Rabbi [Lewis] Goldberg
L. S. Good & Co.
George Goodwin
Morris Graff
D. Milton Gutman

H

Julius Harr
H. Harris
Nathan Harrison
Abraham Helper
Mrs. Carrie Herschman [Hirschman]
[Miss] Fannie Heyman
Bernard S. Horkheimer
Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
L. [Louis] Horkheimer
Mrs. L. [Louis] Horkheimer
Max [L.] Horne

I

David Irwin
[Miss] Flora Isenberg

K

Ben Kapner
Bernice Kapner
Esther L. Katz

Maurice L. Kaufman
Mrs. E. [Eda] Kelly
Esther Klein
L. Klein

L

Mrs. Paul Leach
Rabbi George B. Lieberman
J. and D. Leifer
Robert L. Levenson
Herman Levin
Louis Levin
S. Levin
G. [George] Levinson [Levenson]
Rabbi [Nathan] Levinson
S. [Samuel S.] Lipman
Ben Lipscher

M

H. [Herman] Mallinger
N. [Nathan] Mallinger
H. Mankin
Edna Meyer
Joseph Meyer
M. B. Miller
Ralph L. Miller

N

Morris [Maurice] Naft
L. [Louis] Neistadt
Sidney Newman
Harry Nieman

P

David Pavilack
Simon Penn
Samuel Posin

R

Jennie Reich
Reichart Furniture Company
Mrs. M. Reichblum
S. Robert Reiter
Morris Rivlin
Joseph Robinson
Dr. Kermit Rosenberg
Saul Rosenberg
I. H. Ruttenberg
S. A. [Arthur] Rybeck

S

Mrs. Harry Sax
[Mrs.] Ida Sax
Nathan Sax
Samuel Sax
Ben Schwartz
Sidney Schwartz
Saul Segal
J. Shaw
H. [Herman] Smith
Charles Sonneborn, Jr.
Charles Sonneborn, Sr.
R. and D. [David?] Speyer
[Miss] Hattie Steinhauser
Rae Steinhauser
E. [Emil] Stern
Herman Straus [Strauss]
Synagogue of Israel Sisterhood

T

N. [Nate, Nathan] Taleis
David Tyler

W

Leo Weinberg
N. Weisman

Sam Weisman
John Wiseman
Wheeling Iron & Supply Company (Max Caplan)
C. J. Wolf
Leo Wolf

Beneficiary Organizations, Agencies and Institutions of the Jewish Central Committee Fund of Wheeling for 1937

The Alumni of the Rabbinical College of "Kenesseth Israel" of Slobodka-Kowno, Inc.
B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Committee
Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds
Erie Orphanage [of Erie, Pa.]
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society [of New York]
Jewish Chautauqua Society [then of Cincinnati]
Jewish Consumptive Relief Association of Denver, Colo.
Jewish Consumptive Relief Association of Los Angeles, Calif.
Jewish Statistical Bureau [of New York]
Joint Distribution Committee [of New York]
Leo N. Levi Hospital [of Hot Springs, Ark.]
Mirrer [Mirer] Yeshivah Association
National Home for Jewish Children
National Jewish Hospital [of Denver]
The Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary [of New York]
Union of American Hebrew Congregations [then of Cincinnati]
United Jewish Charity Institutions of Jerusalem
United Palestine Appeal
Yeshivah Telz

Financial Summary — 1937

Contributions — United Jewish Appeal	$2,000
Contributions — United Welfare Drive	1,507
[Total]	$3,507
Disbursed to beneficiary organizations	$3,405
Balance retained for contingencies	102

Administrative Expense — 1937

Postage, supplies, stenographer, etc. $57.40
(All expenses are paid out of a special fund, donated for that purpose by the Jewish Men's Club.)

COMMITTEE

President: Ernest S. Horkheimer
Secretary: Ralph L. Miller
Treasurer: John Wiseman
Sidney Good — Herman Levin
Samuel Posin — Nathan Harrison

Ex-Officio Members

Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Rabbi Nathan Levinson

1939

Wheeling Jewish Community Council
Report of the 1939 Campaign

(including the list of contributors and the list of all beneficiary organizations as of October 5, 1940)

John Wiseman, President

Important Notice to Subscribers

During the early part of 1940 the Jewish Community Council was formed as a reorganization of the former Jewish Central Committee of Wheeling . . . . The most important . . . of the purposes of this organization is the reduction of the number of solicitations which we used to have in this city from various organizations, and the saving of the expense that these organizations went to in sending solicitors to our city. It is also a coordinating organization for all Jewish activities within the Wheeling district . . . .

John Wiseman,
President.

Subscribers [1939 Campaign]
United Jewish Appeal[1]

A

Harry Abrams
Libby Abrams
Al [Alfred] Arfield
Mrs. Al [Alfred] Arfield

B

Amelia Bachenheimer
Ben F. Baer
Herbert O. Baer
Irwin [H.] Baer
Mrs. Irwin [H.] Baer
J. L. [Leonard] Baer
Mrs. Sallie Baer
David Banov
Mrs. David Banov
Mrs. C. L. Bauer
Louis Berkoff
Mrs. Louis Berman
Rose Berman
Thelma Berman
Rose Bernbach
Bessie Bernhardt
Jesse A. Bloch
Dr. Herman Block
A. Bobes
Charles Bobes
Morris Bobes
Dr. S. S. Bobes
Mrs. S. S. Bobes
Mrs. Annie Broverman
Frances Broverman
Dr. Louis E. Broverman
Sidney H. Burns

C

Max Caplan
A. [Arthur] K. Clifford
Ann Cohen
Helen Rae Cohen
Hymie [Hyman] Cohen
Jack Cohen
William S. Combs
Mrs. William S. Combs
Herman [L.] Cooper
Dr. H. B. Copeland
Mrs. H. B. Copeland
Ernest Crone
Max Crone
Mrs. Max Crone
Sam Crone
Mrs. Sam Crone

D

Jacques Daniels
Sam Davis

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[1] The reader will note the presence, on this second list, and on the subsequent lists cited in this volume, of many names which were not on the first list, that for 1937; and, similarly, the absence of some names found in the 1937 list. In every city, even from year to year, there is a considerable shifting and changing of the Jewish population, through deaths, through removals to other cities, and through "immigration" from other cities. There are also new subscribers to the fund, persons who were never contributors before, but are now listed.

PLATE XLIII

Pulpit and Ark of Temple B'nai Israel of Williamson, W. Va.

(see page 1579)

THE CHOIR

B'nai Israel Congregation of Williamson, W. Va., 1948

Top: Sara Ann Stone, Richard Wells, Gloria Levine, Sonia Stone, Danny Friedberg, Kay Klayman
Bottom: Janet Bank, Patty Preiser, Gilbert Sherman, Gloria Ginsburg

(see page 1591)

THE HEBREW CLUB

B'nai Israel Congregation Religious School
of Williamson, W. Va., 1948

Top: Sara Ann Stone, Sonia Stone, Kay Klayman
Bottom: Richard Wells, Danny Friedberg

(see page 1592)

Mrs. Sam Davis
Jacob Dobkins [Dobkin]
Rose Dobkins [Dobkin]
Mrs. Julia [M.] Dreyfuss
Fannie Dubbs

E

Joseph Edelman
Mrs. Joseph Edelman
Sara Edelman
Ethel C. [Claire] Elikan
Mrs. M. R. Elikan
Rosalie Enelow
Saul Enelow
Eoff Street Temple Sunday School
Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood
Eoff Street Temple Junior Sisterhood

F

A. E. Farer
Isador Farer
Mrs. I. [Isador] Farer
Freda Feingold
J. H. Feingold
Wendell Feingold
Ted [Theodore] Feldman
Jack Frank
Mrs. Jack Frank
S. K. Frank
Arnold [A. J.?] and Henry [H. N.?] Friedman
Helen Front
Marc [L.] Front
Mrs. Marc [L.] Front [Dora C. Front]
Peter Front
Mrs. Peter Front
S. S. [Sigmund S.] Front
Mrs. Sig [Sigmund S.] Front
S. [Samuel?] E. Front
Miss Marie Front
Virginia Front

G

M. [Morris] Graff
Mae Graff
Milton Gessner
Mrs. Milton Gessner
Anne Goldberg
David S. Goldberg
Mrs. [David S.] Goldberg
Rabbi Lewis Goldberg
Mrs. Lewis Goldberg
[Mrs.] Fannie Good
Mrs. Sam Good
Mrs. Sidney Good
L. S. Good & Co.
Harry Greenwald
Mrs. Saul Gross
Samuel Grossfield
Miss Elsa Gundling
[D.] Milton Gutman
Mrs. D. Milton Gutman

H

Hamburg Brothers
Sam Hanauer
James Handleman
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Harr
E. L. Harrison
Elizabeth Harrison
Nathan Harrison
Abe [Abraham] Helper
Mrs. Abe [Abraham] Helper

Miss Fannie Heyman
Mrs. Carrie Hirschman [Herschman]
Bernard Horkheimer
Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Mrs. Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Judith Horkheimer
Louis Horkheimer
Mrs. Louis Horkheimer
Max L. Horne
Mrs. Max [L.] Horne

I

Miss Flora Isenberg
I. [Israel] Isenberg

J

Al [Albert? Alfred?] Jacobs
Mrs. Al Jacobs
Junior Hadassah

K

Ben Kapner
Mrs. Ben Kapner
Myron Kapner
Andrew Katz
Essie [Esther L.?] Katz
Mrs. Jessie Katz
Maurice [L.] Kaufman
Mrs. M. [Maurice L.] Kaufman
Mrs. Eda [M.] Kelly
Bess Kerness
Edith Kerness
King Jewelry Company
Edwin F. Kline
J. Kline
Harry Kramer
Rose Kramer
Dorothy Kriegman
Joseph Kriegman
Mrs. [Joseph] Kriegman
Rae Kriegman
Marcia Kruger

L

Mrs. Paul Leach
Nell Lessner
Anne Levin
Herman Levin
Louis Levin
Rose Levin
Ann Levine
Ben Levinson
David J. Levinson
George Levinson [Levenson]
Robert [L.] Levinson [Levenson]
Mrs. Robert [L.] Levinson [Levenson]
Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Dr. G. Liepack
Mrs. G. Liepack
Sam [Samuel S.] Lipman
Mrs. Sam [Samuel S.] Lipman
Harold Lipp
Ben Lipscher

M

Herman Mallinger
Kate Mallinger
Mollie Mallinger
Nathan Mallinger
Miss Jean Meyer

Joseph Meyer
Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Seymour Michael
Mrs. Seymour Michael
M. B. Miller
Mrs. M. B. Miller
Ralph L. Miller
Mrs. Ralph L. Miller
William Mintzer
Mrs. William Mintzer
Monday Reading Group

N

Mrs. Sally Naft
Dorothy Natterson
Rose Natterson
Sam Natterson
Louis Neistadt
Ruth Newberg
Sidney Newman
Harry Nieman

O

Walter Orenstein

P

David Pavilack
Ann Pearlstein
Gertrude Pearlstein
Simon Penn
Mrs. Simon Penn
Philip Perilman
Dora Perlow
Mrs. Matilda Piatt
Dr. L. M. Polan
Cora Posin
Samuel Posin

R

Si [Simon?] Rabinowitz
William Raduziner
Albert Recht
Ethel Recht
Annie Reich
Jennie Reich
Ben Resnick
Sadye Resnick
Harry Rivlin
Irene Rivlin
Lillian Rivlin
Mollie Rivlin
Morris Rivlin
Sara Robinson
Mrs. E. Roman
[Dr.] Kermit Rosenberg
Mrs. Kermit Rosenberg
Ben [Benjamin L.] Rosenbloom
Emil Rothenberg
Israel Rubin
Joseph Rubin
Mollie Rubin
Rose Rubin
I. [H.] Ruttenberg
Mrs. I. [H.] Ruttenberg
S. F. Ruttenberg
S. A. [Arthur] Rybeck

S

[Mrs.] Ida Sax
Louis Sax
Nathan Sax
Rebecca Sax
Rose Sax
Sam [Samuel] Sax

Kal [Kalman?] Shacter
Rose Shacter
Mrs. Charles Schlesinger
Mrs. Milton Schlesinger
Ben Schwartz
Elanore Schwartz
Mendel Schwartz
Sara Schwartz
Sidney Schwartz
Sam Sebolsky
Saul Segal
Dr. S. [Seymour] L. Shaw
Thelma Simon
Saul Slesinger
Meyer Slotsky
Ruth Slotsky
Herman Smith
Mrs. Herman Smith
Estate of M. [Moses?] Sonneborn
Herbert M. Sonneborn, Jr.
Charles L. Sonneborn, Jr.
Mrs. Charles [L.] Sonneborn, Jr.
Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Sr.
Leon Sonneborn
David Speyer
Gertrude Spiro
Meyer Spiro
Elizabeth Steinfeld
Katherine Steinfeld
Miss Hattie Steinhauser
Malvin Steinhauser
Miss Rae Steinhauser
Esther Stern
Herman Strauss
Harry Superior
Mrs. Harry Superior

T

T. J. Club
Nate [Nathan] Taleis
Irwin Thal
Mrs. Irwin Thal
Joe [Joseph] Thompson
Tillie Thompson
David Tyler

V

Alex Veil
Lillian Veil

W

Max Watzman
Yetta Watzman
Nathan Weissman
Mrs. Nathan Weissman
Philip [Phillip] Wiener
John Wiseman
Mrs. John Wiseman
Mrs. Alex [Alexander] Wishnew
C. J. Wolf
Leo Wolf

Y

Helen Yeager

Z

Sam Zarvitz [Zanvitz?]
David Zeidman
Max Zeidman

Total of the 1939 drive: $13,519.90

Beneficiary Organizations, Agencies, and Institutions of the Wheeling Jewish Community Council Fund for 1939

Disbursed to Beneficiary Organizations:

American Ort Federation
American Red Cross
Anti-Nazi League
B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League
B'nai B'rith Home for Children
B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Committee
Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds
Ex-Patients Tubercular Home
Finnish Relief Fund
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jewish Chautauqua Society
Jewish Consumptive Ex-Patients Relief Association
Jewish Consumptive Relief Association
Jewish Statistical Bureau
Jewish Welfare Board
Local Co-Ordinating Committee
National Conference of Christians and Jews
National Home for Jewish Children
National Jewish Hospital
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
United Jewish Appeal, Incorporated
Wheeling Federated Jewish Charities

Wheeling Jewish Community Council

General Chairman: Sam Good
President: John Wiseman
Recording Secretary: H. [Herman] Cooper
Corresponding Secretary: Sam Crone
Treasurer: Ernest S. Horkheimer

MEMBERS [OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL]

William S. Combs
Joseph Edelman
Sam Good
D. Milton Gutman
E. L. Harrison
Nathan Harrison
Max [L.] Horne
Mrs. Ben Kapner
Rabbi B. Klein
Herman Levin
George Levinson [Levenson]
Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Ralph L. Miller
Mrs. Samuel Posin
Morris Rivlin
Joseph Rubin
Herbert M. Sonneborn, Sr.

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF WHEELING
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

ANNUAL REPORT
1942–1943

FAITH HOPE CHARITY

TREASURER'S REPORT

AUGUST 1, 1942, TO SEPTEMBER 20, 1943

Balance, August 1, 1942	$ 2,406.02

RECEIPTS

Collections — 1942 Drive (list attached)	11,485.00
Collections — 1941 Drive	2,919.25
Collections — 1940 Drive	25.00
Synagogue of Israel Joint Distribution Committee Matzoth Fund	225.00
Special Gift for the Joint Distribution Committee Children's Relief	39.50
Interest on Bonds	80.00
Proceeds of Card Party	11.50
Sale of Cards	3.50
Total Receipts	$14,788.75
Total Funds to be accounted for	$17,194.77

DISBURSEMENTS

To Beneficiary Organizations

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	$ 264.50
American Ort Federation	200.00
American Red Cross War Fund	100.00
B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League	200.00
B'nai B'rith Home for Children	100.00
B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Committee	100.00
Edgington Lane Synagogue for Vaad Hahatzala	100.00
Ex-Patients Tubercular Home	25.00
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society	150.00
Hebrew Theological College [Chicago]	20.00
Jewish Chautauqua Society	25.00
Jewish Consumptive Relief Society	150.00
Jewish Consumptive Relief Association	250.00
Jewish Student Foundation [Morgantown]	50.00
Jewish Theological Seminary Association [New York]	50.00
Jewish Telegraphic Agency	50.00
Jewish Welfare Board	750.00
National Conference of Christians and Jews	75.00
National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds	115.00
National Home for Jewish Children	50.00
National Jewish Hospital	100.00
Union of American Hebrew Congregations	300.00
United Jewish Appeal, Incorporated	9,017.50
United Jewish Fund	100.00
United Yeshiva Foundation, Incorporated	50.00
Yeshiva and Mesifta Torah Vodaath	40.00
Yeshiva College [New York]	50.00
Yeshiva Rabbi Isaac Elchanan and Yeshiva College [New York]	40.00
TOTAL — To Beneficiary Organizations	$12,522.00

Expenses of the Drive	130.55
Investment in Series G War Bonds	3,000.00
Total Disbursements	$15,652.55
Balance in the Bank as of September 20, 1943	$ 1,542.22
Series G War Bonds Owned as of September 20, 1943	$ 3,200.00

Jewish Community Council of Wheeling
Annual Campaigns

1941 — 1942

[Individual Contributions by Members]

A

Harry Abrams
Mrs. Harry Abrams
Al [Alfred] Arfield
Mrs. Al [Alfred] Arfield
Askin's Retail Stores

B

Amelia Bachenheimer
Mrs. Sallie Baer
Irwin [H.] Baer
Mrs. Irwin [H.] Baer
Mrs. Rena Baer
Charles E. Baker
Max Bales
Mrs. Max Bales
Charles Banov
David Banov
Mrs. David Banov
Harry Banov
Mrs. Harry Banov
Mrs. C. L. Bauer
Ben Berger
Mrs. Ben Berger
S. [Samuel] Berman
Bessie Bernhardt
Jerry H. Bernhardt
Sidney H. Berns
Dr. Herman [S.] Block
Nate Bloom
A. Bobes
Charles Bobes
M. [Morris] O. Bobes
Mrs. M. [Morris] O. Bobes
Mrs. Annie Broverman
Frances Broverman
Dr. Louis Broverman

C

Max Caplan
A. [Arthur] K. Clifford
Harry Cohen
Jack Cohen
Mrs. Jack Cohen
W. [William] S. Combs
Mrs. W. [William] S. Combs
Herman L. Cooper
Mrs. Herman L. Cooper

Dr. H. B. Copeland
Mrs. H. B. Copeland
Ernest Crone
Max Crone
Mrs. Max Crone
Sam Crone
Mrs. Sam Crone

D

Dr. [David] Dannenberg
Jacques Daniels
Day's, Inc.
Jacob Dobkin
Mrs. Jacob Dobkin
Mrs. Joseph Dobkin
Mrs. Julia [M.] Dreyfuss
Fannie Dubbs

E

Joseph Edelman
Mrs. Joseph Edelman
Lieutenant Morris Edelman
Miss Sophia Edelman
Miss Ethel Claire Elikan
Mrs. Claire Elikan
Saul Enelow
Mrs. Saul Enelow
Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood
Eoff Street Temple Sunday School
Eoff Street Temple Junior Sisterhood
Samuel Epstein

F

A. E. Farer
I. Farer
Mrs. I. Farer
Theodore Feldman
S. K. Frank
Harry Franklin
Mrs. Harry Franklin
George Fried
Arnold [A. J.?] Friedman
Henry Friedman
Jacques Front
Marie Front
Peter Front
Mrs. Peter Front
Sam [S. E.?] Front
Sigmund S. Front
Mrs. Sigmund S. Front

G

Gay Apparel Corporation
M. [Milton?] Gessner
Mrs. Milton Gessner
David [S.] Goldberg
Mrs. David [S.] Goldberg
Henry Goldberg
Rabbi and Mrs. L. [Lewis] Goldberg
Mrs. Fanny [Fannie] Good
Mrs. Samuel Good
Mrs. Sidney Good
L. S. Good & Co.
M. [Morris] Graff and J. Robinson
Mrs. Morris Graff
Harry Green[w]ald
D. Milton Gutman
Mrs. D. Milton Gutman
Mrs. Saul Gutman
William Gutman
Mrs. William Gutman

H

Hamburg Brothers and Julius Harr
Samuel Hanauer
Julius Harr
Nathan Harrison
Mrs. Nathan Harrison
Julian Hast
Mrs. Julian Hast
[Miss] Fannie Heyman
Mrs. Carrie Hirschman [Herschman?]
Bernard Horkheimer
Mrs. Bernard Horkheimer
Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Mrs. Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Mrs. Louis Horkheimer
Max L. Horne
Mrs. Max L. Horne

I

Flora Isenberg

J

Joy Stores, Inc.

K

Mr. and Mrs. B. Kapner
Ben Kapner
Mrs. Ben Kapner
Julius Katz
Mrs. Julius Katz
Maurice [L.] Kaufman
Mrs. Maurice [L.] Kaufman
Mrs. Eda [M.] Kelly
Bess Kerness
Edith Kerness
King Jewelry Company [Perilmans]
[Mr.] Krieger
Joseph Kriegman
Mrs. Joseph Kriegman
Rae Kriegman

L

George Layton
Dorothy Lazarus
Louis Lazarus
Maurice Lazarus
Mrs. Maurice Lazarus
Mrs. Paul Leach
Joseph Lebow
Simon Lebow
Michael [Mike] Lessner
Nell Lessner
George Levenson
Mrs. Robert L. Levenson
Albert Levin
Mrs. Albert Levin
Herman Levin
Mrs. Herman Levin
Jacob Levin [Levine?]
Louis Levin
Mrs. Louis Levin
S. Levin
Mrs. S. Levin
Ben Levinson
Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Dr. G. Liepack
Mrs. G. Liepack
Samuel S. Lipman
H. [Harold] Lipp
Ben Lipscher
Mrs. Ben Lipscher

M

Herman Mallinger
Mrs. Herman Mallinger
Nathan Mallinger
Mrs. Nathan Mallinger
Mangel's
Dr. D. [David] Marks
Mrs. D. [David] Marks
Henry Mayer
Joseph Meyer
Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Seymour Michael
Mrs. Seymour Michael
M. B. Miller
Mrs. M. B. Miller
Ralph [L.] Miller
Mrs. Ralph [L.] Miller

N

Morris [Maurice] Naft
Mrs. Morris [Maurice] Naft
Dorothy Natterson
Samuel Natterson
Mrs. Samuel Natterson
William Neistadt
Ruth Newberg
Harry Nieman

P

Ken [Kenneth] Palestrant
D. [David] Pavilack
Mrs. D. [David] Pavilack
A. [Abraham?] Pearlstein
Mrs. Abraham Pearlstein
Mrs. Anna Pearlstein
Simon Penn
Mrs. Simon Penn
Joseph Perilman
Mrs. Joseph Perilman
Morris Piatt
Mrs. Morris Piatt
Mrs. Wilson Phillips
Dr. L. N. [M.] Polan
Samuel Posin
Mrs. Samuel Posin

R

Si [Simon?] Rabinowitz
Mrs. Si [Simon?] Rabinowitz
Albert Recht
Mrs. Albert Recht
Annie Reich
Jennie Reich
Reichart Furniture Company
Mrs. M. Reichblum
S. R. [Robert] Reiter
Mrs. S. R. [Robert] Reiter
Ben Resnick
Mrs. Ben Resnick
Dan Rivlin
Harry Rivlin
Julius [Jules] Rivlin
Morris Rivlin
Mrs. Morris Rivlin
Rogers Jewelry Company
E. Roman
Mrs. E. Roman
Dr. Kermit Rosenberg
Mrs. Kermit Rosenberg
Saul Rosenberg
Mrs. Saul Rosenberg
Ben [Benjamin L.] Rosenbloom
Emil Rothenberg

Mrs. Emil Rothenberg
Joseph Rubin
Robert Rubin
Mrs. Robert Rubin
D. Ruttenberg
Mrs. D. Ruttenberg
S. A. [Arthur] Rybeck

S

Dr. David Salkin
Mrs. Ida Sax
Nathan Sax
Mrs. Nathan Sax
Samuel Sax
Mrs. Samuel Sax
Kal [Kalman?] Schacter [Shacter]
Mrs. Kal [Kalman?] Schacter [Shacter]
Ben Schwartz
Mrs. Ben Schwartz
Samuel Sebolsky
Sedgwick Publishing Company
Saul Segal
Mrs. Saul Segal
Dr. S. [Seymour] L. Shaw
Mrs. S. [Seymour] L. Shaw
Herman L. Sheikovitz
Mrs. Herman [L.] Sheikovitz
Paul Silverberg
Mrs. Paul Silverberg
Saul Slesinger
Mrs. Saul Slesinger
Meyer Slotsky
Mrs. Meyer Slotsky
Herman Smith
Mrs. Herman Smith
Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Sr.
Herbert Sonneborn, Jr.
H. [Herbert] Sonneborn, Sr.
Mrs. H. [Herbert] Sonneborn, Sr.
Morton Sonneborn
Mrs. Rachel Sonneborn
Mrs. Robert Sonneborn
Charles Stein
H. [Harry] Steinfield and family
[Miss] Hattie Steinhauser
Rae Steinhauser
Harry Stepsay
Mrs. Harry Stepsay
Emil Stern
Mrs. Emil Stern
Samuel Stone
Herman Strauss
Harry Superior

T

Nate [Nathan] Taleis
Irwin Thal
Mrs. Irwin Thal
Mrs. Joe [Joseph] Thompson
David Tyler

V

Harry Van Bergh
Alex Veil
Mrs. Alex Veil

W

Max Watzman
Mrs. Max Watzman
Phillip Wiener
Mrs. Phillip Wiener
Joseph Weinstein

Mrs. Ralph Weinstein
G. Weiss
Nat [Nathan] Weissman
Mrs. Nat [Nathan] Weissman
Harry Wiseman
Mrs. Harry Weisman [Wiseman]
John Wiseman
Mrs. John Wiseman
Richard Wiseman
Robert Wiseman
Mr. and Mrs. A. [Alex] Wishnew
C. J. Wolf
Mrs. Elsie Wolfe

Y

Herman Yaeger [Yeager]
Mrs. Herman Yaeger [Yeager]

Z

Samuel Zanvitz
Max Zeidman

Amount Pledged in 1941: $12,270
Amount Pledged in 1942: $11,495

The Honor Roll of the Jewish Community of Wheeling

B

Henry Baer
Lee Baer
Robert Banov
Dr. Norman Berger
Harry Berman
Joseph Berman
Sam [Samuel] Berman
Dr. Herman [S.] Block
Bernard Bloom
Dr. Saul S. Bobes

C

Nelson Combs

D

Joseph Dreyfuss

E

Morris Edelman
Sophia Edelman
Arthur Elikan

F

Alfred Farer
Joseph Franklin
Charles Front
Henri Front

G

Henry Goldberg
Samuel Goldberg
Lee Good
David Graff
Jerome Graff
Louis Gundling

H

Arthur Harrison
David Hast
John Hast
Louis Hirsch

K

Myron Kapner
Stanley Kapner
Edward Klabano [Klaband?]

L

Robert [L.] Levenson
Bernard Lipscher

M

Arnold Mallinger
Norman Mallinger

N

Joseph Natterson

P

Abe [Abraham] Pearlstein
Joseph Perilman
Dr. William Perilman
Morris Piatt

R

William Raduziner
Edward Resnick
Ben Rivlin
Jules Rivlin
Jacob Robinson
Dr. Herman Rubin
Samuel Rubin
Milton Ruttenberg
Arthur Rybeck
Walter Rybeck

S

Daniel Sax
Lawrence Sax
Ralph Sax
Dr. Benjamin Steinfield
Harold Stern
Charles Sonneborn, Jr.
Herbert Sonneborn, Jr.
Jack Sonneborn
Richard Sonneborn
Meyer Sonneborn
Robert Sonneborn
Joseph Strauss

T

Irwin Thal
Dr. David Thompson

Jewish Community Council of Wheeling, W. Va.
Executive Committee of the Council
(1942–1943)

President: Nathan Harrison
Vice President: Herman [L.] Cooper
Secretary: Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Treasurer: John Wiseman
Drive Committee Chairman: Sam Good
Drive Committee Co-Chairman: William [S.] Combs
Drive Committee Co-Chairman: George Levenson

David Tyler
Samuel Posin
Peter Front
Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Rabbi Joseph H. Wagner

Members of the Council

Sam Crone
Joseph Edelman
Mrs. Saul Enelow
Max [L.] Horne
Mrs. Max [L.] Horne
Herman Levin
Dr. David Marks
Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Samuel Rudner
Herman Strauss

Wheeling Jewish Community Council
Wheeling, West Virginia

ANNUAL REPORT

1943–1944

Faith, Hope, Charity

Treasurer's Report

September 20, 1943, to November 25, 1944 and Comparison with the Last Report

August 1, 1942, to September 20, 1943

Balance at the Beginning of the Period	September 20, 1943, to November 20, 1944	(For Comparison) August 1, 1942, to November 20, 1943
	$ 1,492.22	$ 2,406.02
RECEIPTS		
Collection from Current Fiscal Year's drives (includes special gifts)	$15,974.50	11,749.50
Collection from Previous Drives	5.00	2,944.25
Interest on bonds	82.50	80.00
Special Contribution to the 1944 Drive	280.00	
Other Receipts		15.00
Total Receipts	$16,342.00	14,788.75
TOTAL — Receipts plus balance on hand to start	$17,834.22	17,194.77
DISBURSEMENTS		
To the United Jewish Appeal	10,237.50	9,282.00
To Other Beneficiary Organizations Per List [following]	3,285.00	3,240.00
Gifts to Men in Service	137.08	
Expenses	347.93	130.55
Investment in Series G War Bonds		3,000.00
Total Disbursements	14,007.51	15,652.55
BALANCE — On the Closing Date of the Report	$ 3,826.71	$ 1,542.22
Series G War Bonds on Hand	$ 3,200	$ 3,200

TREASURER'S REPORT

List of Other Beneficiary Organizations

	September 20, 1943, to November 20, 1944	(For Comparison) August 1, 1942, to November 20, 1943
American Friends of the Hebrew University, Incorporated	100.00	
American Fund for Palestine Institutions	100.00	
American Jewish Conference	100.00	
American Ort Federation	200.00	200.00
American Red Cross War Fund	100.00	100.00
B'nai B'rith Home for Children		100.00
B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League	250.00	200.00
B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Committee	100.00	100.00
Edgington Lane [Synagogue], for the Vaad Hahatzala		100.00
Ex-Patients Tubercular Home	25.00	25.00
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society	200.00	150.00
Hebrew Theological College	25.00	20.00
Hebrew University of Jerusalem (for printing Hebrew Bibles)	50.00	
Jewish Chautauqua Society	25.00	25.00
Jewish Consumptive Relief Association	50.00	250.00
Jewish Consumptive Relief Society	200.00	150.00
Jewish Student Foundation [at Morgantown]	50.00	50.00
Jewish Telegraphic Agency	75.00	50.00
Jewish Theological Seminary Association		50.00
Jewish Welfare Board	500.00	750.00
National Conference of Christians and Jews	75.00	75.00
National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds	125.00	115.00
National Jewish Hospital	200.00	100.00
National Home for Jewish Children	60.00	50.00
Palestine Lighthouse, Incorporated	50.00	
Synagogue Council of America	100.00	
Union of American Hebrew Congregations	300.00	300.00
United Jewish Fund		100.00
United Jewish Laymen's Committee	50.00	
United Yeshiva Foundation, Incorporated	75.00	50.00
Yeshiva and Mesifta Torah Voda[a]th		40.00
Yeshiva Rabbi Isaac Elchanan and Yeshiva College	100.00	90.00
Totals	$3,285.00	$3,240.00

Wheeling Jewish Community Council
[List of Contributors]
1943–1944 Annual Campaign

A

Harry Abrams
Mrs. Harry Abrams
Al [Alfred] Arfield
Mrs. Al [Alfred] Arfield

B

Amelia Bachenheimer
Irwin [H.] Baer
Mrs. Irwin [H.] Baer
Mrs. Rena Baer
Mrs. Sallie Baer
Charles E. Baker
Mrs. Charles [E.] Baker
Max Bales
Charles Banov
David Banov
Harry Banov
Mrs. Harry Banov
Ben Berger
Mrs. Ben Berger
Sidney [H.] Berns
Bessie Bernhardt
Fannie Bloch
Joseph H. Bloom
A. Bobes
Charles Bobes
M. [Morris] O. Bobes
Mrs. M. [Morris] O. Bobes
Frances Broverman
Mrs. Annie Broverman
Dr. Louis Broverman

C

Charity Fund, Synagogue of Israel
Max Caplan
Harry Cohen
Mrs. Jack Cohen
Lieutenant Nelson [Robert] Combs
William S. Combs
Mrs. William S. Combs
Mr. and Mrs. Herman [L.] Cooper
Dr. H. B. Copeland
Mrs. Henrietta Copeland
L. Covington
Max Crone
Mrs. Max Crone
Ernest Crone
Sam Crone
Mrs. Sam Crone

D

Jacques Daniels
Dr. David Dannenberg
Jacob Dobkin (Dobkin Brothers)
Mrs. Jacob Dobkin
Mrs. Joseph Dobkin
Mrs. Julia M. Dreyfuss
Fannie Dubbs

E

Joseph Edelman

Mrs. Joseph Edelman
Lieutenant Morris Edelman
Betty Ann Edelman
Miss Sophia Edelman
Saul Enelow
Mrs. Saul Enelow
Mrs. Claire Elikan and Ethel Elikan
Eoff Street Temple Sisterhood
Eoff Street Temple Sunday School

F

Jacques Front
Peter Front
Mrs. Peter Front
Samuel Front
I. Farer
Mrs. I. Farer
William Feingold
S. K. Frank
Max Frieberg
Mrs. Harry Franklin
Arnold [A. J.?] Friedman
Henry Friedman
Sigmund S. Front
Mrs. Sigmund S. Front

G

Gay Apparel Corporation
Florence Gessner
Milton Gessner
David [S.] Goldberg
Freda Goldberg
[Rabbi] Lewis Goldberg
Mrs. Lewis Goldberg
Mrs. Fannie Good
L. S. Good & Company
Mrs. Samuel Good
Mrs. Sidney Good
Graff & Robinson
Mrs. Morris Graff
Harry Greenwald
D. Milton Gutman

H

Sam Hanauer
Julius Harr
Julian Harris
Nathan Harrison
Mrs. Nathan Harrison
Julian Hast
Mrs. Julian Hast
Bernard Horkheimer
Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Mrs. Ernest [S.] Horkheimer
Mrs. Louis Horkheimer
Mrs. Carrie Hirschman [Herschman?]
Max L. Horne
Mrs. Max L. Horne

I

Flora Isenberg

J

Jay Stores, Incorporated

K

Ben Kapner
Mrs. Ben Kapner
Myron Kapner
Esther L. Katz

[Mrs.] Eda M. Kelly
Maurice [L.] Kaufman
Mrs. Maurice [L.] Kaufman
Kibitzers Social Club
King Jewelry Company (Perilmans)
Mrs. Joseph Kriegman

L

George Layton
Louis Lazarus
Mrs. Louis Lazarus
Mrs. Maurice Lazarus
Mrs. Paul Leach
Joseph Lebow
Simon Lebow
Nell Lessner
George Levenson
Albert Levin
Mrs. Albert Levin
Herman Levin
Mrs. Herman Levin
Louis Levin
Mrs. Louis Levin
S. Levin
Mrs. S. Levin
Jacob Levine
Mrs. Jacob Levine
Helen E. Levinson
Leon Levy
Mrs. Julia Levy
Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Dr. G. Liepack
Samuel S. Lipman
Mrs. Sam [Samuel S.?] Lipman
Harold Lipp
Ben Lipscher
Mrs. Ben Lipscher

M

Herman Mallinger
Mrs. Herman Mallinger
Nathan Mallinger
Mrs. Nathan Mallinger
Mangel's of West Virginia, Inc.
Dr. D. [David] Marks
Mrs. D. [David] Marks
Henry Mayer
Joseph Meyer
Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Seymour Michael
Mrs. Seymour Michael
Mrs. M. B. Miller
Ralph Miller
Max Mishne

N

Morris [Maurice] Naft
Mrs. Morris [Maurice] Naft
Mrs. Samuel Natterson
Ruth Newberg
Harry Nieman

P

D. [David] Pavilack
Mrs. D. [David] Pavilack
[Mrs.] Anna Pearlstein
Simon Penn
Mrs. Simon Penn
Mrs. J. [Joseph] Perilman
Dr. Wilson Phillips
Mrs. Wilson Phillips

Samuel Posin
Mrs. Samuel Posin

R

Mrs. Si [Simon?] Rabinowitz
Albert Recht
Mrs. Albert Recht
Reichart Furniture Company
Religious School of the Synagogue of Israel
Annie Reich
Jennie Reich
S. Robert Reiter
Sarah R. Reiter
Sandra Renee Reiter
Ben Resnick
Mrs. Ben Resnick
Dan Rivlin
M. [Morris] Rivlin
Mrs. Morris Rivlin
Rogers Jewelry Company
E. Roman
Mrs. E. Roman
Dr. Kermit Rosenberg
Mrs. Kermit Rosenberg
Saul Rosenberg
Mrs. Saul Rosenberg
Ben [Congressman Benjamin L.] Rosenbloom
Emil Rothenberg
Lucie Rothenberg
Joseph Rubin
Robert Rubin
D. Ruttenberg
Mrs. D. Ruttenberg
S. A. [Arthur] Rybeck

S

John Santo
Mrs. Ida Sax
Nathan Sax
Mrs. Nathan Sax
Samuel Sax
Mrs. Samuel Sax
Kal [Kalman?] Schacter [Shacter]
Mrs. Kal [Kalman?] Schacter [Shacter]
Ben Schwarz [Schwartz]
Mr. [Samuel] Sebolsky
Mrs. [Samuel] Sebolsky
Sedgwick Publishing Company
Saul Segal
Mrs. Saul Segal
[Dr.] Seymour [L.] Shaw
Mrs. Seymour L. Shaw
Mrs. Herman [L.] Shiekovitz [Sheikovitz]
Sisterhood of the Synagogue of Israel (special)
Mrs. Meyer Slotsky
Herman Smith
Mrs. Herman Smith
Mrs. Charles Sonneborn, Sr.
Herbert Sonneborn, Sr.
Mrs. Herbert Sonneborn, Sr.
Mal [Malcolm?] L. Sonneborn
Mrs. Rosalie Sonneborn
Charles Stein
Harry Steinfeld
Libby Steinfeld
[Miss] Hattie Steinhauser
Rae Steinhauser
Samuel Stone

Mrs. Samuel Stone
Mrs. Emil Stern
Herman Strauss
Harry Superior
Mrs. Harry Superior

T

Nathan Taleis
Albert Tavins
Mrs. Irwin Thal
Joseph Thompson
David Tyler

V

Alex Veil
Mrs. Alex Veil

W

Rabbi Joseph H. Wagner
Max Watzman
Mrs. Max Watzman
Nathan Weissman
Mrs. Nathan Weissman
Mrs. Ralph Weinstein
Harry Wiseman
Mrs. Harry Wiseman
John Wiseman
Mrs. John Wiseman
Wiseman's (Richard, Robert, Patti Lou, and Keith Alan Wiseman)
C. J. Wolf
Mrs. Elsie Wolf

Y

Herman Yaeger [Yeager]
Mrs. Herman Yaeger [Yeager]

Z

Max Zeidman
Mrs. Max Zeidman

Collections to November 25, 1944	$15,974.50
Balance to be collected	55.50

The Honor Roll of the Jewish Community of Wheeling, W. Va.

B

Henry Baer
Lee W. Baer
Thelma R. Bales
Robert Banov
Norman B. Berger
Samuel B. Berger
Harry Berman
Joseph Berman
Morris Berman
Samuel Berman
Dr. Herman S. Block
Ralph Block
Bernard W. Bloom
Dr. S. [Saul] S. Bobes
Herman Brown

C

Nelson [Robert] Combs
M. A. Copeland
Herbert B. Copeland

D

Joseph M. Dreyfuss

E

Aaron Edelman
Morris Edelman
[Miss] Sophia Edelman

F

Alfred Farer
Dorothy Franklin
Joseph L. Franklin
Marvin Franklin
Charles Front
Elinor Front
Henri S. Front

G

Henry A. Goldberg
Samuel Goldberg
Lee S. Good
Edgar L. Goodman
Stanley H. Goodman
David Graff
I. J. Graff

H

Arthur S. Harrison
Louis Hirsch

I

D. Inoff

K

Myron Kapner
Stanley Kapner

M

Arnold Mallinger
Norman Mallinger
Sandy Moidel

N

Eva Natterson
Joseph Natterson
Mae Natterson

P

Robert L. Parshall
Charles E. Pavilack
Al Pearlman
Joseph Perilman
Dr. William Perilman
Morris M. Piatt

R

William Raduziner
Edward Resnick
Ben D. Rivlin
Jules Rivlin
Jacob Robinson
Herman Rubin
Milton Ruttenberg
S. Arthur Rybeck, Jr.
Walter Rybeck

S

Dan S. Sax
Martin Sax
Ralph Sax
Z. L. Sax
Raymond Schreiber
Charles L. Sonneborn, Jr.
Herbert Sonneborn
Jack Sonneborn
James R. Sonneborn
Meyer R. Sonneborn
Morton Sonneborn
Richard Sonneborn
Robert Sonneborn
Charles J. Stein
Ben Steinfeld
Harold Stern
Joseph Strauss
Seymour R. Subit

T

Irwin Thal

V

Charles Vail

W

Milton Watzman
Sanford Watzman
Sylvain F. Weill
Larry [Lawrence] Weinstein
Sidney Weissman
Philip Wiener

Members of the [Jewish] Community Council [of Wheeling]

1943–1944
Sam Crone
Joseph Edelman
Mrs. Saul Enelow
Max [L.] Horne
Mrs. Max [L.] Horne
Herman Levin
Dr. David Marks
Mrs. Joseph Meyer
Samuel Rudner
Herman Strauss

1944–1945
Harry Abrams
Charles [E.] Baker
Sidney [H.] Berns
Sam Crone
Joseph Edelman
Mrs. J. H. Feingold
Mrs. Sigmund S. Front
Mrs. Morris Graff
Max L. Horne
Maurice [L.] Kaufman
Herman Levin
Sam [Samuel S.] Lipman
Sadie Resnick
Minnie Roman
Nathan Sax (deceased)
Seymour [L.] Shaw
Herman Strauss

WHEELING JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wheeling, West Virginia
Executive Committee of the Council

Officer or Executive Committee Member	1943–1944	1944–1945
President:	Nathan Harrison	David Tyler
Vice-President:	Herman [L.] Cooper	Nathan Harrison
Corresponding Secretary:	Ernest [S.] Horkheimer (deceased)	Herman L. Cooper
Recording Secretary:		Meyer Franklin
Treasurer:	John Wiseman	John Wiseman
Drive Committee Chairman:	Sam Good	Sam Good
Drive Committee Co-Chairman:	William [S.] Combs	John Wiseman
Drive Committee Co-Chairman:	George Levenson	George Levenson
Member:	David Tyler	
Member:	Samuel Posin	Samuel Posin
Member:	Peter Front	
Member:	Rabbi George B. Lieberman	Rabbi George B. Lieberman
Member:	Rabbi Joseph H. Wagner	Rabbi Joseph H. Wagner

1959–1960

Jewish Community Council of Wheeling (including Moundsville), organized in 1933.

Isadore Rubinstein, treasurer.

National Conference of Jewish Charities

1902

In 1902, there was, in Wheeling, one of the 52 constituent societies of the National Conference of Jewish Charities in the United States, which was organized in 1899. The Wheeling society apparently became a member of the National Conference of Jewish Charities in the United States in the year 1901–1902, and retained its membership and its affiliation therein for many years thereafter.

1903–1904

For the year 1903–1904, in Wheeling, the United Jewish Charities was a member of the National Conference of Jewish Charities in the United States, with Rabbi Harry Levi serving as its president.

1907–1908

In 1907 to 1908 [5668 A.M.], Congregation Leshem Shomayim and the United Hebrew [Jewish] Charities, of Wheeling, were constituent societies of the National Conference of Jewish Charities in the United States.

1908–1909

In 1908 to 1909, according to the *AJYB* (1908–1909 [5669 A.M.]), the Wheeling United Hebrew Charities was still a constituent society of the National Conference of Jewish Charities in the United States; at that time it was the only one in the entire State of West Virginia which was either in existence or so affiliated.

1909–1912

For the three-year period extending from 1909 to 1912, the United Hebrew Charities, of Wheeling, was still affiliated with the National Conference of Jewish Charities in the United States, remaining the only one in the State so affiliated or in existence.

The Jewish Chautauqua Society

1901–1902

On June 15 to 16, 1901, the First State Convention of the [Jewish] Chautauqua Society Circles was held in Wheeling, and a report on this convention was submitted to the National J. C. S. by Rabbi Harry Levi.

At the Fifth Summer Assembly of the J. C. S., held in Atlantic City, N. J., on July 7 to 28, 1901, Rabbi Harry Levi, of Wheeling, presented a paper on "The Jew in English Fiction."[1]

For the year 1901 to 1902, Rabbi Levi was elected, for the first time, as a member of the Educational Council of the J. C. S.

1902–1903

At the Sixth Summer Assembly of the J. C. S., held at Atlantic City, N. J., from July 6 to 27, 1902, an address was delivered by I. [Israel] Isenberg, of Wheeling,[2] on behalf of the State Convention of the [Jewish] Chautauqua Society Circles of West Virginia.

At the 1902 Assembly of the J. C. S., for the year 1902 to 1903, I. [Israel] Isenberg was elected an honorary vice president of the J. C. S., and Rabbi Harry Levi was re-elected a member of the Educational Council.

Both Rabbi Levi and Israel Isenberg, apparently, became affiliated with the J. C. S. and its work in West Virginia in the years 1901 to 1903. Israel Isenberg was re-elected an honorary vice president of the J. C. S. for the year 1903 to 1904.

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[1] Later, Rabbi Levi expanded this paper into a book, and had it published.

[2] Israel Isenberg, together with Rabbi Harry Levi, took a very active part in the work of the J. C. S. in Wheeling and in the State, for a number of years.

In 1902–1903, a course on "Jewish Characters in English Fiction," written by Rabbi Harry Levi, of Wheeling, was issued by the J. C. S.

1903–1904

In the course of the year 1903 to 1904, a Reading Course Work Circle of the J. C. S. was introduced into Wheeling. Israel Isenberg was re-elected an honorary vice president of the J. C. S. for the three years 1903 to 1906.

1907–1908

In 1907 to 1908, there were two circles of the J. C. S. in Wheeling, with Fannie Baer and Mrs. Leo (Claudia) Wolf as their respective secretaries.[1] In the early period of its existence, the work of the J. C. S. dealt mainly with adult Jewish education.

1909–1914

In 1909 to 1914, Wheeling's Jewish community still had its Circle in the J. C. S., the only one in existence in the entire State (*AJYB*, 1913–1914 [5674 A.M.], page 378).

Rabbi Harry Levi continued to serve, until 1911–1912, as a member of the Educational Council of the J. C. S., being re-elected annually up to that time from 1901–1902, the year of his first election.

1914–1915

In 1914, the Wheeling circle of the J. C. S., apparently, ceased to exist, as it is no longer mentioned or listed in the *AJYB* for 1914–1915 [5675 A.M.], page 295. This was about the time when the J. C. S. changed its emphasis from adult Jewish education to the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of Judaism among non-Jewish groups at camps, colleges, and universities.

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[1] Mrs. Leo (Claudia) Wolf, in the 1920's, later became prominent in the work and offices of the West Virginia Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

The Board of Delegates on Civil and Religious Rights, of the U. A. H. C.

In 1905–1906, Morris Horkheimer, of Wheeling, was elected, and in 1906–1907 re-elected, a member of the Board of Delegates on Civil and Religious Rights, of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. In 1915, Moses Sonneborn, of Wheeling, was a member of this Board of Delegates on Civil and Religious Rights, and he was re-elected to the same position for the next eight years, serving until at least 1923 or 1924 (*AJYB*, 1916–1917 [5677 A.M.], 255). (The Board of Delegates was disbanded in 1925, inasmuch as other American Jewish organizations were deemed to be able to take charge of its work.)

The American Jewish Committee

In 1915, Louis Horkheimer, of Wheeling, was elected a member of the General Committee of the American Jewish Committee, from District No. VIII, which includes the four States of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia (*AJYB*, 1915–1916 [5676 A.M.], 357). In his first term as a member of this General Committee he served until 1920–1921. Louis Horkheimer was then, in 1921, 1926, 1931, and 1936, re-elected for four more consecutive five-year terms, finishing up 25 continuous years of service in 1940, when he retired from the post. Three further reports, or items, in the volumes of the *AJYB* are to the following effect:

Louis Horkheimer was listed in the *AJYB* (1932–1933 [5693 A.M.], 343) as the Community Representative of the American Jewish Committee, from West Virginia.

In 1933–1934, Louis Horkheimer was re-elected to the American Jewish Committee as a community representative.

Louis Horkheimer continued as a member of the American Jewish Committee, in the Community Representative Class, until 1940, when his [final] term expired.

The Industrial Removal Office

For many years from 1900 on, there was in Wheeling an agency of the Industrial Removal Office. The following three brief items with regard to this organization are to be found in the volumes of the *AJYB*:

In 1910, Wheeling continued to have an agency of the Industrial Removal Office.

In 1911–1912, the Wheeling Jewish community still had its agency in the Industrial Removal Office; the national organization was founded at New York in 1900.

In 1912–1913, the Wheeling Jewish community still had its agency in the Industrial Removal Office.

The National Farm School

Morris Horkheimer, of Wheeling, was, in 1907, appointed a member of the National Auxiliary (Executive Auxiliary) Board of the National Farm School, of Bucks County, Pa., near Philadelphia. In 1910–1911, he was still serving in this position, and is so recorded in the volumes of the *AJYB* up to the volume of the year 1911. In 1911–1912, Morris Horkheimer still served as a member of the National Auxiliary Board of the National Farm School, which was incorporated at Philadelphia on April 10, 1896.

The Workmen's Circle (Der Arbeiter-Ring)

The Arbeiter-Ring (Workmen's Circle) had a branch in Wheeling, known as the Arbeiter-Ring, in 1910–1911. The Wheeling branch was the only one in the entire State. The national Arbeiter-Ring was organized on September 4, 1900, and the Wheeling branch was formed, apparently, in the year 1910–1911. In 1911–1912, Wheeling still had its branch of the Arbeiter-Ring, which was still the only such branch in existence in West Virginia. Apparently, it remained in existence in Wheeling for some years thereafter.

The Order Knights of Joseph

In 1908–1909, there was formed in Wheeling a lodge of the Order Knights of Joseph (*AJYB*, 1909–1910 [5670 A.M.], 164), which was organized as a national group on February 14, 1896. In 1910, Wheeling continued to have its lodge of the Order Knights of Joseph, which, apparently, remained in existence for some few years thereafter.

Wheeling Jews in Military Service[1]

Norman Ben Berger. Norman Ben Berger, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army, in the Second World War, with the rank of captain. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart, 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Harry Berman. Harry Berman, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of captain. He received the Silver Star and the Bronze Star Medal.

Nelson Robert Combs. Nelson Robert Combs, of Wheeling, served in the United States Navy in the Second World War, with the rank of lieutenant commander. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Joseph Mayer Dreyfuss. Joseph Mayer Dreyfuss, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of captain. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Morris Edelman. Morris Edelman, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of 1st lieutenant. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Herbert W. Emsheimer. Herbert W. Emsheimer, of Wheeling, a scion of an old-time noted Jewish family of Wheeling, was appointed to the rank of lieutenant in the United States Army, in 1917–1918, in the course of the First World War.

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[1] This list is only partial. For a more complete list of Wheeling Jews and Jewesses in military service, in the Second World War, *see* above, under the two Honor Rolls of the Jewish Community of Wheeling, W. Va. (1941–1942 and 1943–1944). Some of the names vary.

ALEXANDER ELIAS FARER. Alexander Elias Farer, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of staff sergeant. He received the Presidential Unit Citation.

JOSEPH LEE FRANKLIN. Joseph Lee Franklin, of Wheeling, served in the Second World War in the United States Army, with the rank of staff sergeant. He received the Commendation.

JEROME GRAF [GRAFF?]. Jerome Graf [Graff?], of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of lieutenant.

He was awarded the Purple Heart.

EDWARD KLABAND. Edward Klaband, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of sergeant. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

JEROME KRIEGMAN. Jerome Kriegman, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of private. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

ROBERT L. LEVENSON. Robert L. Levenson, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, and was awarded the Air Medal, 4 Oak Leaf Clusters; the Distinguished Flying Cross, 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; and the Presidential Unit Citation, 1 Oak Leaf Cluster.

NORMAN J. MALLINGER. Norman J. Mallinger, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of 1st lieutenant. He was awarded the Soldiers' Medal; the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; the Purple Heart, 1 Oak Leaf Cluster; and the Presidential Unit Citation, 1 Oak Leaf Cluster.

EDWARD M. RESNICK. Edward M. Resnick, of Wheeling, served in the United States Army in the Second World War, with the rank of lieutenant. He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

JESSE SPEYER. Jesse Speyer, of Wheeling, was appointed a lieutenant in the United States Army, in 1917–1918, in the course of the First World War.[1]

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[1] His family name was inadvertently misprinted as *She*yer in some of the records of the *AJYB* for that period, e. g., 1918–1919 [5679 A.M.], page 218; cf. page 220.

Biographical Notes on Wheeling Jews

J. Leonard Baer. J. Leonard Baer, who later practised as an attorney in Beckley, W. Va., for a number of years, lived in Wheeling and practised as a lawyer there for several years before settling in Beckley in 1940. J. Leonard Baer died in Beckley on December 7, 1948.

Leonard Julius Bernstein. Leonard Julius Bernstein, a younger brother of Max and Jacob Bernstein, of Sutton, W. Va., after practising medicine in Sutton for a number of years, later removed to Wheeling, where he served as a physician for some time. He died in Wheeling.

Samuel S. Bloch. Samuel S. Bloch, noted manufacturer, head of a tobacco firm in Wheeling, and prominent as a civic and congregational worker, died in Wheeling on October 2, 1937, at the age of 87. This item is recorded in the *AJYB* for 1938–1939 [5699 A.M.], page 382.

Samuel C. [S.?] Bloch, care of the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company, in Wheeling, was listed as a member of the American Jewish Historical Society, of New York, from Wheeling, in the years 1905 and 1906 (*PAJHS*, No. 13 [1905], page 161).

Originally one of the early Jewish pioneers in Wheeling, Samuel S. Bloch and his wife were actively affiliated and linked with the Reform Jewish Congregation Leshem Shomayim. In the course of the years, a disagreement took place, according to reports, within the Sisterhood of the congregation, and Mrs. Bloch, as well as her husband, withdrew from congregational participation, and later on their identification with the Jewish community came to a complete end. Some of their children and grandchildren became active members and leaders of the Vance Memorial Church (Presbyterian). When Samuel S. Bloch died, on October 2, 1937, his funeral was conducted by a Unitarian minister.

Abraham Brody. Abraham Brody, who lived for a number of years in Cameron, W. Va., where he operated a restaurant, moved to Wheeling.

JACOB FISHER. Jacob Fisher, of Wheeling, was, in 1889, elected a member of the Lower House of the West Virginia Legislature (the House of Representatives), serving continuously thereafter from 1889 to 1901. From 1901 to 1911 he served as a State Senator. From 1911 to 1927, Jacob Fisher served as a judge of the Braxton County Court.

HENRI E. FRONT. Henri E. Front, who was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in June, 1955, and is a member of the prominent and several-branched Front family which has long been settled in Wheeling, is, apparently, the only Wheeling-born boy who ever entered the rabbinate.

Rabbi Henri E. Front was born in Wheeling on August 16, 1928. In 1950 he graduated from the University of Cincinnati with an A.B. degree in American and English literature, and was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in June, 1955, at the same time receiving his M.H.L. degree. In 1955, immediately after his ordination, he enlisted in the Chaplain Corps of the United States Navy, serving with the Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, and with the Third Marine Division, FMF, on Okinawa. He served for two years as a Navy chaplain until 1957, and then was elected rabbi of Temple Menorah, in Redondo Beach, Calif., where he was still serving in 1959–1960. In September, 1959, Henri E. Front was appointed Coordinator of the Pre-Rabbinic Program of the California School (in Los Angeles) of the College-Institute (H. U. C. - J. I. R.). He was a second cousin of Marc L. Front, of Wheeling and Beckley.

MARC L. FRONT. Marc L. [Leon] Front, a second cousin of Rabbi Henri E. Front, was born in Wheeling on January 3, 1903. He worked there for a number of years before he removed to Beckley in May, 1942. He was a son of the Jacques Front who was a descendant of the original Front family in Wheeling and who died at Wheeling in 1954 at the age of 93. (*See under* Front Family, below.) Marc L. Front died in Beckley on December 10, 1952, and was

buried at Wheeling in the Wheeling Jewish Cemetery (Mount Wood).

FRONT FAMILY. My younger colleague Rabbi Henri E. Front, of Temple Menorah, of Redondo Beach, Calif., a grandson of the Henry [Henri] E. Front who was a co-founder and superintendent of Ohav Sholom Congregation, in Wheeling, presented, under the date of March 27, 1958, in addition to the above few data on his own biography, the following information on the Front Family of Wheeling, in a letter to me written from Redondo Beach, Calif. He mentioned the fact that the Front Family was of French Jewish origin.

"The Henri [Henry] E. Front whom you mention, as the superintendent of Ohav Sholom Congregation, the Orthodox synagogue in Wheeling, in 1913 on, is [was] my paternal grandfather. My own father, Henry Mark Front (he gathered the Henry at the time of the anti-German period in 1914; his original name was Mark Front), brought his whole family to this country [from France] after he had been in Wheeling for a few years. The first member of our family there [in Wheeling] was Jacques Front [the father of Marc Leon Front], who passed away in Wheeling in 1954 at the age of 93. He was a wigmaker, hairdresser, etc., who was theoretically in the court of the Dauphin [of France] for a time.[1] My father (Mark Front, or Mark Henry Front) was the eldest son in the family, so he came over to the United States from France first. My grandfather, speaking no English, worked in a steel mill [in Wheeling] for a time until he was 'retired,' as I understand it.

"The Congregation Ohav Sholom was an Orthodox congregation which my grandfather and Jacob R. Marcus' father [Aaron Marcus] built, founded, and ran. Marc Front [Marc Leon Front, of Beckley] was the son of Jacques Front; Marc Front ran a hotel in Beckley.[2] Mark (Henry Mark) Front, my

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[1] Jacques Front was the brother of the first Henri [Henry] E. Front, and thus he was the granduncle of Rabbi Henri E. Front.

[2] Marc Leon Front, who died in Beckley in December, 1952, and was buried in Wheeling, was the second cousin of Rabbi Henri E. Front; he was not the operator,

father, was the founder of the Front Electric Company [in Wheeling], wholesalers in electrical systems. He was an excellent worker in the Temple, president for a number of years, and on the board of a bank. Mark (Henry Mark) Front, my father, was a very gifted man who, unfortunately, died four months after my birth, following a gall bladder operation which was . . . unsuccessful . . . . "

Morris Horkheimer. In May, 1910, Morris Horkheimer, of Wheeling, was appointed a member of the [West Virginia] Governor's Staff. From 1901 to 1905, Morris Horkheimer served as commissary general of the State of West Virginia, under Governor Albert B. White, and was given the honorific title of general. He was a member of the Horkheimer family which was noted in the annals of Wheeling and of its first congregation, Leshem Shomayim, and he was among the earliest Jewish settlers in the city. In 1907, he was appointed a member of the National Auxiliary Board of the National Farm School, of Philadelphia, which had been organized on April 10, 1896. He served in this post for several years, and is recorded in the volumes of the *AJYB* as still holding this position in 1910–1911.

The death of Morris Horkheimer is recorded in the *AJYB* for 1912–1913 [5673 A.M.], on page 127, as that of "General Morris Horkheimer, of Wheeling, on May 22, 1912, at Atlantic City, N. J."

George L. Joseph. Dr. George L. Joseph, an eye specialist, of Wheeling, for a number of years paid professional visits to Cameron, near Moundsville, W. Va., one day a week.

Charles Lando. Charles Lando was recorded as a member of the confirmation class in Wheeling [Congregation Leshem Shomayim] in 1939–1940.

Louis Lazarus. Louis Lazarus, who lived for a number of years in Cameron, near Moundsville, W. Va., operating a clothing store, later settled in Wheeling.

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but the assistant manager, of the President Hotel, in Beckley, for a number of years, under the direction of its then lessor and manager, Nathan Matz, his brother-in-law.

Aaron Marcus. The family of Aaron Marcus lived in Wheeling from 1909 to 1915, when it moved to Farmington, W. Va. *See under* Farmington. Aaron Marcus was the father of Jacob R. Marcus, Adolph S. Ochs Professor of American Jewish History at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati.

Meyer Morris. Meyer Morris, the maternal grandfather of Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling, lived in Wheeling from 1872 to 1875, and then moved to Pittsburgh, Pa. He was born in Suvalk, Russia [Lithuania], in 1852, and migrated to the United States when he was only a youth of 18 or 19 years of age. Wheeling was his first city of residence in the United States.

Meyer Morris worked as a dry goods and notions peddler in the Wheeling area for the three years of his residence there. He was also a real estate entrepreneur on a small scale, and it is reported that before he left Wheeling he was offered, at a moderate price, for purchase, a tract of land, on part of which, in 1891, the Eoff Street Temple of Congregation Leshem Shomayim was built, but he refused the offer, because of his decision to leave Wheeling and to settle in Pittsburgh. The name of Meyer Morris is not recorded in the minutes or records of the early Congregation Leshem Shomayim, of which he was, apparently, not a member, despite his own Orthodoxy and that of the congregation in those early years.

Meyer Morris was a full brother of the two Phillips brothers (Henry and Mosheh Hirsch) (the family name of Morris was the original name) Phillips of the later-established Phillips-Jones Corporation. Dora Morris Shinedling (died at Paterson, N. J., on January 30, 1923), the eldest child and the oldest daughter of Meyer Morris and of his wife, Rose Meyer Morris, and the mother of Abraham I. Shinedling, was born in Wheeling, in a house on Eoff Street, near the site of the old Eoff Street Temple which was abandoned in 1956–1957, on July 4, 1873.

Meyer Morris and Rose Meyer Morris had eight children, only one of whom was born in Wheeling, and whose names and residences are listed below. The early Wheeling

Jewish community lost many early Jewish residents in addition to Meyer Morris, who moved away to other cities after a short residence in the West Virginia city. After living in Pittsburgh from 1875 to 1879 or 1880, Meyer Morris and his family moved to Chicago, then to Marinette, Wis., and finally, about the year 1898 or 1899, to New York. He died at Paterson, N. J., in April, 1920, in which city he had resided from about 1914 on, engaged in the retail dry goods business, and the owner of a small retail dry goods store in Paterson. Meyer Morris was buried in the Warren Point Cemetery of the Orthodox Congregation B'nai Israel, in Paterson, with which he was affiliated for years.

Of interest is the paragraph cited below, taken from a letter written to me on July 28, 1956, from New York, to which city the entire Morris family had moved from Chicago and Marinette, Wis., in the last year or two of the 19th century (*ca.* 1898 or 1899). This letter was written to me by my younger maternal aunt, Mrs. Anna Ethel Morris (Mrs. Frank) Ivry, of New York, one of my mother's two younger sisters:

"I have very little knowledge of the Meyer Morris family tree, but I wrote to Aunt Lill [my other maternal aunt, the late Mrs. Lillian B. Getzler, of White Plains, N. Y.], and I herewith transmit the information which she sent me. Grandfather Morris [Meyer Morris] married Rose Meyer, a sister of Mark Meyer, a shoe manufacturer and shoe merchant, of Milwaukee, Wis., in New York, at the age of 19 or 20, and he took his bride of 15 or 16 years of age to Wheeling, where their first child — your mother — the oldest child of Meyer and Rose Meyer Morris, was born, on July 4, 1873. The baby was 11 weeks old before he returned from a trip which he made from town to town, selling merchandise (dry goods and notions). Grandma's [Mrs. Rose Meyer Morris'] father's name was Mayer Meyer, from Calveria, Poland. Grandpa Meyer Morris was from Russia — Suvalk, Lithuania — and the township [province] was called the Suvalker Gaberrnie [Gobernia, Province, or Government]. Meyer Morris was born in 1852 or 1853. From Wheeling, in

1875, they moved to Pittsburgh, where Uncle Ike [Isaac Morris, my oldest maternal uncle] and Uncle Abe [Abraham L. Morris, my mother's second oldest brother] were born; and later they removed to Chicago, where Uncle Ben [Benjamin T. Morris] and Aunt Lill [Mrs. Lillian B. Morris Getzler] were born [my third oldest maternal uncle and my older maternal aunt].[1] Although Aunt Lill does not specify precise dates, it can reasonably be assumed that they went to Wheeling approximately 84 years ago (in 1872) and left there in 1875."

In his early days in Pittsburgh and Chicago, Meyer Morris was interested in the pre-Herzlian Zionist movement.

Mrs. Anna E. Morris Ivry subsequently added the following data on her parents, Meyer and Rose Meyer Morris, and on the Morris family, which was formerly of Wheeling, in a letter written to me from The Bronx, N. Y., on April 17, 1958. I present excerpts from this letter herewith:

"Your father and mother (Moses and Dora Morris Shinedling) went from Chicago to live in Marinette, Wis., first, before my parents Meyer and Rose Morris. Then we moved to Marinette. Your grandfather was in the shoe business, and was very successful, having several stores at that time. He was the king, and he took your father into his shoe business, so that he could make a living for his rapidly growing family. After several years, both families moved from Marinette and from Menominee, Mich., to New York, in 1898 or 1899 [1899].

"Meyer Morris and Rose Meyer Morris, your grandparents, were married on Mott Street, New York, in 1871. That was before it became Chinatown. It was a very nice neighborhood then."

The eight children of Meyer Morris and of Rose Meyer Morris were:

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[1] Still later, although my aunt, Mrs. Anna Morris Ivry, does not mention it in her first letter, Meyer and Rose Meyer Morris moved to Marinette, Wisconsin, and finally Meyer Morris settled in New York. In his later years he resided for several years, from 1914 to 1920, in Paterson, N. J., where he conducted a small dry goods store on Hamburg Avenue, a street now called West Broadway, near Totowa Avenue.

Dora Morris, born in Wheeling, on July 4, 1873. In 1891 she married Moses Shinedling, in Chicago. She died in Paterson, N. J., on January 30, 1923.

Isaac Morris, born in Pittsburgh, in 1875; he died in Mount Vernon, N. Y., in the late 1940's. He married Leah Busnitz, of New York.

Abraham L. Morris, born in Pittsburgh, in 1877; he died in a convalescent-rest home near New York City, in December, 1957. He married Rose Stebbins, of New York.

Benjamin T. Morris, born in Chicago, in the early 1880's [1881?]; he was living in Los Angeles, Calif., in 1959. He married Bess Goodman, of New York.

Benjamin T. Morris died at Los Angeles, Calif., on April 17, 1962, at the age of 81.

Lillian B. Morris (married Edwin Getzler, of New York, now deceased), born in Chicago, in 1883. In early 1960, she died in White Plains, N. Y., in which city she had lived for about twenty years after leaving New York City.

Anna Ethel Morris (married Frank Ivry, of New York), born at Chicago, in 1891; in 1960, she was living in The Bronx, N. Y. (Mrs. Anna E. Morris (Frank) Ivry, my younger maternal aunt, passed away at New York City, on September 23, 1961, at the age of 70. She had been born in Chicago on July 6, 1891.)

Louis H. Morris (married Sophie Mittenberg, of New York), born in Chicago, in late 1893; died at Port Chester, N. Y., in 1940.

Edward M. Morris (a brigadier general in the United States Air Force), born in Marinette, Wis., in 1895. Edward M. Morris retired from the United States Air Force in 1955, with the permanent rank of colonel, after seeing service in both World Wars. In 1960 he was living in San Antonio, Tex.

Benjamin L. Rosenbloom. Benjamin L. (Louis) Rosenbloom, of Wheeling, served in the West Virginia State Senate from 1914 to 1918. His first election to the State Senate took place on November 3, 1914. He was born in Braddock, Pa., in 1880. From 1921 to 1925 he served in Washington, D. C., as a Representative from West Virginia in the

United States House of Representatives. He was elected to his first term in Congress in November, 1920, serving from 1921 to 1923, and was re-elected for a second term on November 7, 1922, serving for two more years, from 1923 to 1925. He then returned to Wheeling, and from 1935 to 1939 he was vice mayor of the city.

Benjamin L. Rosenbloom is mentioned in a list entitled "Jews of Prominence in the United States," compiled by I. George Dobsevage, and published in *AJYB*, Volume 24 (1922–1923 [5683 A.M.]), page 195. Here he is declared to have been born in Braddock, *W. Va.*, in 1880, but *W. Va.* is an error for Braddock, *Pa.* A brief biography of Benjamin L. Rosenbloom may be found in Volume IX, on page 211, of the *UJE*.

R. A. Salomons. R. A. Salomons, of Wheeling, was a member of the State Senate from 1911 to 1913, according to several printed sources. It is possible that R. A. Salomons is an error in printing for Solins, a brother of Samuel Solins, of Welch, W. Va.

Charles L. Sonneborn. Charles L. Sonneborn, a descendant of M. [Moses] Sonneborn, one of the original, or one of the earliest, Wheeling Jewish settlers, was, in 1958, head of the Sonneborn Corporation, of Wheeling. Other members of the firm included Charles L. Sonneborn, Jr., and Robert M. Sonneborn.

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

White Sulphur Springs is a residential town in Greenbrier County, in southeastern West Virginia, located 36 miles east northeast of Hinton, on the main line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad between Norfolk, Va., and Cincinnati. It is located 8 miles east of Lewisburg, in the Allegheny Mountains, and is noted as a health resort, with mineral springs. It was settled *ca.* 1750, or sometime during that decade (the 1750's), and has been an all-year-round health resort since the early years of the 19th century. In 1950, according to the United States Census, White Sulphur Springs had a general population of 2,643. Its population in 1940 had been 2,093. There were no Jewish families living in White Sulphur Springs in 1957–1958.

White Sulphur Springs is the site of the Greenbrier Hotel, famous for its cuisine and for its noted two 18-hole championship golf courses and for its golf tournaments. The town of White Sulphur Springs is located adjacent to the 6,500-acre Greenbrier Estate. The town and region are from 1,917 to 2,000 feet above sea level. The first organized golf club in the United States was established at White Sulphur Springs in 1884.

A. I. Polan, of Charleston, stated that in 1887 he visited in White Sulphur Springs, and found a number of Jewish families living there. They were Dutch Jews, and were engaged in selling fine linen to the heavy resort trade which came there at that period. From 1930 to 1936, L. Chassey (or Chassy), of the Greenbrier Hotel and Cottages, lived in White Sulphur Springs, and was a subscriber to [a member of] the J. P. S. A., apparently the only such member from the town of whom there is record in the past.

Mrs. Edna De Groot, corresponding secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of White Sulphur Springs, commented, in two letters to me written on July 16 and 25, 1956, on Jewish inhabitants of the town in the past and present, as follows:

" . . . . I have been making inquiries on Jewish residents of White Sulphur Springs, for your history of the Jews of West Virginia, and I can find only the one family, Richard Bock.

He married here [a non-Jewish woman], and has moved East [to Baltimore]. As much as I can learn, there has never been a colony [Jewish group] here. I shall, however, pass your letter on to older residents here, and if we can help you, we shall be glad to do so."

"In reply to your letter of July 19th [1956], in regard to Mr. [Richard] Bock, I have been told that Mrs. Bock will be here very soon, to visit her mother, Mrs. Nell Montague . . . . "

In answer to a letter sent by me to Richard M. Bock, in accordance with the above, addressed to the care of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Nell Montague, at 210 Reed Street, in White Sulphur Springs, and dated July 26, 1956, I received the following detailed and generous reply from Richard M. Bock, whom I had visited on several occasions in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Beckley, where Richard M. Bock, then a resident of White Sulphur Springs, and a postal inspector in the service of the United States Post Office, was staying for short periods of time for medical treatment for ear trouble. Richard M. Bock's letter, dated August 2, 1956, was written from Baltimore:

"About Jewry in White Sulphur Springs, . . . the only family I can remember is that of a piano player at the Greenbrier Hotel who left there several years ago. His first name is Nat, but I can't remember his last name . . . . I have suspected that there may be a family or two of Jewish origin in White Sulphur Springs, but who now claim another faith. As an example, one family had a visitor by the name of Freda Nussbaum from Brooklyn, and she was supposed to be Catholic. If these people want to hide their origin, that is up to them; I wouldn't want to be involved in any way.

"I was not particularly familiar with Greenbrier Hotel employees, as I had little contact there. I worked out of Lewisburg for the United States Postal Service, but I lived in White Sulphur Springs. You probably know of the [Louis] Schuchat family in Lewisburg; and they are the only ones [Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schuchat] of the Jewish faith whom I know there.

" . . . . I was born in Jersey City, N. J., on December 30, 1916. I attended the College of the City of New York and

Jersey City Normal School, but I received no degree. I entered the postal service as a clerk in Jersey City on August 16, 1936. I served in the United States Marines from September 9, 1942, to July 26, 1946. I entered the Post Office Inspection Service as an Inspector on August 1, 1947. I went to Wheeling, Clarksburg, and Parkersburg for about a month each, and on November 1, 1947, was stationed at Beckley; on April 1, 1948, I was transferred to Lewisburg, W. Va., and stayed there until June 1, 1955, when I was transferred to Baltimore, where I am now.[1] I married Marilyn Montague [of White Sulphur Springs; she was not Jewish] on May 26, 1951, and we now have three children: Debra (age 4¼), Tressa (age 2¾), and Alan (age 9 months). The present title of my position is Postal Inspector."

Dr. Aaron S. Green, an ophthalmologist, of San Francisco (born in Riga, Latvia, in 1880), died at White Sulphur Springs, presumably while on a vacation there, on September 9, 1941. He was noted as an inventor of instruments for eye surgery.

Solomon M. Stroock, former New York lawyer and Jewish communal leader (born at New York, on September 22, 1873), died at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., on September 11, 1941, also presumably while on a vacation.

There died at White Sulphur Springs, on October 8, 1960, Walter N. Rothschild, of New York, son-in-law of the late Felix M. Warburg, and for four years chairman of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Army and Navy Committee, who was also chairman of the Abraham & Straus department store, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and chairman of the executive committee of Federated Department Stores, Inc. Walter N. Rothschild also, presumably, had come to White Sulphur Springs for a vacation, or for purposes of rest and recuperation.

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[1] Richard M. Bock was a resident of White Sulphur Springs from April 1, 1948, to June 1, 1955, apparently being the only Jewish resident there since the departure of L. Chassey some time after 1936.

WHITESVILLE

Whitesville is a town in southwestern West Virginia, located in Boone County, about 40 miles northwest of Beckley, and southeast of Charleston, and about midway between Beckley and Charleston, on one of the older and main West Virginia highways connecting Beckley and Charleston, which was in frequent use before the West Virginia Turnpike was constructed. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Whitesville had a general population of 1,017; in 1940, its general population had been 1,225.

In 1957–1958, there were no Jewish families living in Whitesville; the last two Jewish families resident in Whitesville, that of Morris Morgan (originally, Morganstern) and Mary Morganstern, and that of Louis and Sarah P. Wolman, moved away from the town in the early 1950's. M. Edward Harvit, of Beckley, conducted a ladies' clothing store (ready-to-wear) in Whitesville until early 1959, and the son of the late Morris Morgan still conducted his father's furniture store in Whitesville in that same year.

The following Jewish men or families lived in Whitesville, or conducted businesses there, in the past or present:

Samuel I. Abrams. In the late 1920's, Samuel I. Abrams, before moving to Beckley, operated a clothing and furniture store in Whitesville, although he never lived there.

M. Edward Harvit. M. Edward Harvit, up to the early part of 1959, although residing in Beckley, conducted a ladies' ready-to-wear store in Whitesville for a considerable number of years. He took a prominent part in the civic life of Whitesville in all these years, and for years he wrote a weekly column in the Whitesville newspaper. In 1959, out of Beckley, he became a traveling shoe salesman for an out-of-town firm.

Morris Morgan. Morris Morgan (originally, Morganstern) and his wife, Mary Morgan, lived in Beckley until 1944, when they settled in Whitesville. Here Morris Morgan conducted

a furniture store from 1949 on, in partnership with Arthur Wolk. From 1949 to 1954, Morris Morgan remained in business in Whitesville, and then moved to Miami Beach, Fla., where he died in 1956. His son continued the Whitesville business after he had moved to Florida.

Louis Wolman. Louis Wolman, a maternal nephew of M. Edward Harvit, and his wife, Sarah Pines Wolman, and their two children, Jack and Marsha, lived in Whitesville for several years until 1952, when the Wolman family settled in Beckley. In Whitesville, Louis Wolman had worked as a self-employed clothing and general house furnishings salesman in the neighboring regions.

WILLIAMSON

GENERAL

Williamson is a city in Mingo County, in southwestern West Virginia, located on the Tug Fork River (the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River), 52 miles south of Huntington, and also southwest of Charleston. The Tug Fork River there is the southeastern boundary between West Virginia and Kentucky. Williamson is the county seat of Mingo County, and is located in an important coal-mining area (the so-called Thacker and Kenova District) of West Virginia, of which it is a very important center, on the main line of the Norfolk & Western Railroad, running from Norfolk, Va., to Cincinnati. It is a shipping point for coal mined in the area, and the city manufactures machinery and armatures.

Williamson was, according to some historians, first settled in 1895, and was incorporated as a town in 1896. According to other historians and sources, however, the town was incorporated as early as 1892, and had been settled a few years earlier. Its founder was Wallace J. Williamson, after whom the city was named. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Williamson had a general population of 8,624. In 1940, its general population was 8,366 (United States Census of 1940).

The Jewish Population of Williamson

Ever since its earliest history, Williamson has had Jewish residents. The following figures, or estimates, for the following years are known:

1927

128 Jews, forming one congregation

1936

Census of Religious Bodies, 1936

Williamson (by county: Mingo) is listed as having 135 Jews.

1937

135 Jews, forming one congregation (estimated)

1948

173 Jews (estimated)

1950

173 Jews (estimated)

1950–1952

about 150 Jews (estimate made by Minard Klein)

1954–1955

180 Jews

1956

180 Jews (estimated; *AJYB*, Volume 58 [1957])

1957

40 to 45 Jewish families (about 170 persons; estimated)

1959

170 Jews (estimated; *AJYB*, Volume 61, 1960, page 8) [perhaps considerably too high a figure]

In the years from 1947 on, several of the members of the Williamson congregation resided across the river, in the Kentucky towns of Pikeville, South Williamson, and Stone.

J. P. S. A. Members from Williamson

I. [Isidor] Steckler (1915–1916)
B. Kahn (1924–1929)
Samuel Brown (1941–1942)
Harry Schwachter (1941–1942)

No Williamson Jews were members of the J. P. S. A. in 1957–1958.

I. [Isidor] Steckler, for many years a Williamson clothing merchant, later moved to Bluefield, W. Va., where he entered the same business, and where he passed away about 1945.

B'nai Israel Congregation and the B'nai Israel Congregation Sisterhood

B'nai Israel Congregation, the only Williamson Jewish institution with its own building, joined the U. A. H. C. as an affiliate on May 28, 1922. The congregation was organized in 1916. It is a Reform congregation, and has always been so. Clarence Lovitch was recorded as being the president of the congregation in 1948. In December, 1956, the congregation had 39 contributing members. Several Jewish families of Williamson were, in that year (1956), not affiliated with B'nai Israel Congregation. As a result, the Jewish population of Williamson in that year was estimated at about 45 families. In April, 1958, the congregation still reported a membership of 39, and its president at that time was Philip Beinhorn.

About the year 1950, the original synagogue of the congregation, located at the top of a hill [College Hill] running off the lesser and higher-situated business section of the city, was thoroughly repaired and enlarged, religious school rooms were added, the combination social hall and meeting room was enlarged and newly furnished, and the kitchen was enlarged and reoutfitted, all this with the financial aid of the active Williamson B'nai Israel Sisterhood.

1926–1927

The *AJYB* for 1926–1927 (Volume 28 [5687 A.M.], page 363) contains the following paragraph on the Williamson Congregation B'nai Israel:

Congregation B'nai Israel. 3rd and Logan Streets. Organized in 1916.[1] Rabbi, A. [Abraham] Feinstein.

[1] Reorganized by Rabbi Abraham Feinstein, in 1923.

President of the Congregation: A. Goodman
Secretary: M. D. Morris
Membership: 30
Annual income: $1,500
Services: Sunday evening, in English and Hebrew
Religious School: 4 classes, 4 teachers, 20 pupils, and 1 weekly session [on Sunday morning]
Affiliated Society: The B'nai Israel Temple Sisterhood[1]

B'nai Israel Congregation, in Williamson, has never had a full-time, permanent rabbi. For a number of years, as mentioned, it received the part-time religious services and ministrations of Rabbi Abraham Feinstein, then rabbi of Ohev Sholom Congregation, of Huntington (1923–1932). From the time of its organization in 1916 up to September, 1923, it had no student rabbi or part-time rabbi at all. Members would conduct the services in the synagogue. In 1923, in the fall of the year, Rabbi Abraham Feinstein reorganized B'nai Israel Congregation, and introduced the Sunday evening weekly religious service, services necessarily held on Sunday night because of his occupation with the religious services in Ohev Sholom Congregation, in Huntington, on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. He conducted such religious services for B'nai Israel Congregation, in Williamson, on alternate Sunday evenings and (later) on every Sunday evening, from the fall of the year 1923 until the middle of the year 1932, when he left Huntington to become the rabbi of Mizpah Congregation, in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Thereafter, from the fall of 1932 on, and continuing until the present, the Williamson B'nai Israel Congregation has been served by students from the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, on a regular biweekly basis, and the time of the weekly religious

[1] Rabbi Abraham Feinstein, then spiritual leader of Ohev Sholom Congregation, of Huntington, made visits to the Williamson congregation twice a month, and for some years he made weekly visits for religious services and for other religious functions, during part of the period of his service in Huntington, i. e., from September, 1929, to 1932. This was at a time when the Williamson congregation had no regular student rabbi, or rabbinical student, to serve it, from the Hebrew Union College, in Cincinnati.

service was changed back to Friday nights. No religious services are held in B'nai Israel Congregation on Saturday mornings.[1]

1936–1937

The president of the Sisterhood in 1936–1937 was Mrs. Sol [Solomon] Caplan. In that year, Student Rabbi Alan S. Green, of the H. U. C., officiated at bimonthly religious services for the Williamson congregation, and inaugurated (in September, 1936) open forums on Jewish topics after the Friday night religious services.

In 1936 to 1937, Mrs. Irving (May) Albert was the superintendent of the Williamson Religious School. There were four teachers at that time, in addition to her.

In the same year, Mrs. Irving (May) Albert sponsored a Junior Sisterhood; 11 Jewish girls of the Williamson congregation were members in that year. This Junior Sisterhood later went out of existence.

The incomplete records of the congregation and Sisterhood show that the Sisterhood members in 1936–1937 included the following:

Mrs. M. V. Gaskel	Mrs. N. Rosenfeld
Mrs. L. K. Nabe	Mrs. Nathan Poliakoff

Mrs. Nathan Poliakoff served as the Williamson correspondent, in 1936–1937, for the *Sisterhood News of West Virginia.*

In the same year 1936 to 1937, four Sisterhood members and their families are recorded as having left Williamson, and resettled in other cities, as follows:

Mrs. W. Azarch	Mrs. N. Rosenfeld
Mrs. Oscar Ligum	Mrs. M. Rubinstein

1946–1947

In 1946 to 1947, the United Jewish Charities of Williamson and Congregation B'nai Israel gave financial contributions to

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[1] More details about the congregation and its history, as well as about the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel, will be found in the below-cited letters and biographies of the individual student rabbis of the congregation.

the American Jewish Historical Society, of New York, for the furtherance of its work.

The 1950's

Paul Friedberg served, in the 1950's, as a member of the U. A. H. C. Board of Trustees (formerly known as the Executive Board).

1958

The early [April] 1958 *U. A. H. C. Handbook* listed the Williamson Temple B'nai Israel as a congregation affiliated with the Ohio Valley Region of the U. A. H. C., with Philip Beinhorn as its president, and with the same membership of 39 [families] as had been previously listed in the December, 1955, issue of the *U. A. H. C. Year Book.*

The Biweekly Student Rabbis of B'nai Israel Congregation

The names of only four of the students from the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, who served the Williamson B'nai Israel Congregation on a part-time basis from 1932 to 1943, have been preserved in the congregational records or in the records of the H. U. C. These four were:

Adolph [J.] Feinberg (1935–1936)
Alan S. Green (1937–1938)
Ely E. Pilchik (1938–1939)
Richard C. Hertz (1941–1942)

In 1959–1960, Adolph J. Feinberg was serving as the rabbi of Temple Israel, of Valparaiso, Ind.; Alan S. Green as the rabbi of Congregation Emanu El, in Cleveland, Ohio; Ely E. Pilchik, as the rabbi of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, in Newark, N. J.; and Richard C. Hertz, as the rabbi of Temple Beth El, in Detroit, Mich.

The names of the H. U. C. students who served B'nai Israel Congregation as student rabbis for the years from 1943 through 1960 (all are now ordained except the last-named) are as follows:

1943–1945: H. Bruce Ehrmann
1945–1946: Murray Blackman
1946–1948: Jerome W. Grollman
1948–1949: Murray Blackman
1949–1950: Bernard Martin
1950–1952: Minard Klein
1952–1953: Alexander M. Schindler
1953–1954: Nathan Bark
1954–1955: Sherman Stein
1955–1957: Robert J. Blinder
1957–1959: William J. Leffler, II
1959–1960: Martin Siegel

In 1958–1959, Philip Beinhorn, of the B. & L. Furniture Company, was still serving as the president of B'nai Israel Congregation.

Biographical Notes on the Student Rabbis and Data on the Congregation and Other Jewish Organizations of Williamson

The following section, containing biographical data on the student rabbis from the H. U. C. (-J. I. R.], of Cincinnati, who served B'nai Israel Congregation, of Williamson, during the years from 1943 through 1960, arranged in chronological order, and including excerpts from important and factful letters written to me by many of these then student rabbis, and now younger colleagues of mine in American Reform Judaism, provides additional material on the history of B'nai Israel Congregation and of the Jewish community in Williamson in general, as well as on some of its noteworthy and prominent members:

1943–1945

H. Bruce Ehrmann. Rabbi H. Bruce Ehrmann served as the student rabbi of B'nai Israel Congregation, in Williamson, from September, 1943, to the end of the religious year of 1944–1945 (June, 1945). He was born in Boston, Mass., on June 1, 1918. He received the B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1939, and then became a student at the H. U. C., where he was ordained in June, 1948. In that same year he became rabbi of Congregation Israel, in Brockton, Mass., which position he still held in 1958–1959.

The following valuable information as to the Williamson congregation and its activities in those earliest years of record (1943–1945) of student rabbis are excerpted from a letter written to me by H. Bruce Ehrmann from Brockton, Mass., on February 26, 1957:

> " . . . . I am amazed that such nice [Williamson Jewish] people as Harry Klayman and Mrs. May [Irving] Albert, of the Williamson congregation, do not bother to do any letter writing, and that you must turn to me, whose memory has by now grown dim, with reference to information about the Williamson Jewish congregation.
>
> " . . . . I was student rabbi there from the fall of 1943 until the spring [June] of 1945. During all of that time, I think, the president of the congregation was Kenneth Wells. Harry Klayman must have been either the secretary, or the treasurer, because he used to give me my [biweekly or monthly] check. I really do not recall who the Sisterhood officers were. The correct name of the congregation is B'nai Israel. It is — or was — occasionally referred to as the College Hill Temple.
>
> "As for the Religious School, I had eighteen pupils — one-third of them were the product of mixed marriages. We must have had about four or five teachers, and Miss Ethel Gaskel was the supervisor [superintendent]. Hebrew was optional. We had a teen-age youth group of about six children. In fact, it was at the first convention of the

Reform Youth Groups of that area [the Ohio Valley Region and the Tri-State Subregion of the N. F. T. Y.] — which I helped to arrange — that my wife and I had our first date.[1]

"As for activities there: I used to arrive from Cincinnati just before supper on alternate Friday nights, have dinner with one of the Jewish families of the congregation, and thence to services. Mrs. Blanche [Sam] Friedberg played the organ. Saturday morning I taught a Hebrew class, and had a fifteen-minute radio program over [Station] WBTH. Sunday morning, we had [religious] school, and I returned to Cincinnati Sunday evening.[2]

"As for outstanding events, I recall only two: (1) I gave the Baccalaureate sermon to the graduation class of the Williamson High School in either 1944 or 1945; and (2) the Temple had a Purim party which degenerated into a poker game, with the officers of the Temple taking a cut from each pot for the Temple.

"Since I left Williamson, they have built quite an addition to the Temple, so I hear . . . . The following names of the congregational members — about half of the congregation — still come to my mind:

Irving and May Albert[3]

[Louis] Azarch. The son of Mr. and Mrs. [Louis] Azarch was named Norman Azarch.

Hyman [Hymie] Bank and Ida [?] Bank. They had a son named Billy [William?] Bank [also a daughter, Janet Bank?]

Philip and Lakie Beinhorn

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[1] She was the former Nancy Lehman, of Portsmouth, Ohio, and she and H. Bruce Ehrmann were married on August 25, 1946, in Portsmouth, Ohio.

[2] Like the following student rabbis up to the present time, Rabbi H. Bruce Ehrmann used to devote a portion of Saturday afternoons and evenings and of Sunday afternoons to the visiting of members of the congregation, and of the ill, and to the like clerical functions.

[3] Later, Mrs. May Albert became extremely active in Sisterhood work throughout West Virginia, serving as president of the State Sisterhood Federation for a two year term, in 1953 to 1955, and for several years in lesser offices in the State Federation.

Joe Crigger. Children: Harry and Joe [?]
Nathan Crigger. He had a daughter.
Sam [Samuel N.] and Blanche Friedberg. Their children were Paul and Daniel Friedberg.[1]
Ethel Gaskel and her mother Molly [?] Gaskel
Morris and Esther Helen Ginsburg
Sidney [Sid] Goodman and his wife. Their children: Jerry and Rosemary Goodman
Walter Goodman and his wife, "Jimmy" Goodman
Harry and Betty Klayman. Their children: Kay and Robert Klayman
Saul? [Sol] Levine
Clarence and Frieda Lovitch[2]
the Senior Lovitches [parents of Clarence Lovitch]
Dr. — Poliakoff
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schwachter
Alice Shein and her mother, Mrs. Shein
[Mr.] — and Helen Sherman. Their children: Jerry and Gilbert Sherman
[Herman] Stone. They [Mr. and Mrs. Herman Stone] had more than one daughter; one was named Gloria Stone.
Kenneth Wells, president of the congregation. Their son: Dickie [Richard] Wells.

1945–1946 AND 1948–1949

MURRAY BLACKMAN. Rabbi Murray Blackman served as the student rabbi of the Williamson congregation for two one-year periods, from 1945 to 1946, and from 1948 to 1949. He was born at New York City on November 18, 1920. He received his A.B. degree from the College of the City of New York, and was awarded the degree of Master of Hebrew Letters by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati,

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[1] Paul Friedberg later became president of the N. F. T. Y., nationally, around the year 1950; in 1958–1959, he was a practising attorney in Charleston, W. Va.

[2] Mrs. Frieda Lovitch, in later years, became very active in the work of the Williamson Sisterhood, and in Sisterhood work in West Virginia on the State Federation level.

in 1949, by which institution he was also ordained in June of that same year. Murray Blackman served as a chaplain with the Third Marine Division in Japan for several years, and then, for several years, he was the rabbi of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, of Paterson, N. J., until July, 1956, when he became the associate rabbi of the Rockdale Avenue Temple [Congregation Bene Israel], in Cincinnati; in early 1958 he was elected rabbi of the congregation, together with Rabbi Victor E. Reichert. He is a member of the Adult Religious Education Committee of the C. C. A. R., and a member of the Adult Education Association of the United States. In 1962 he was elected senior rabbi of the Rockdale Avenue Temple, in Cincinnati.

1946–1948

Jerome W. Grollman. Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman served as the student rabbi of the Williamson Congregation B'nai Israel from September, 1946, to June, 1948. In the latter month he was ordained by the H. U. C., in Cincinnati. In 1956 to early 1958, he was the associate rabbi of the United Hebrew Temple, in St. Louis. In May, 1958, he was formally installed as the rabbi of that congregation. His complete biography will be found under Parkersburg.

Like all other student rabbis who served the Williamson congregation, Jerome W. Grollman would arrive in the city, from Cincinnati, on alternate Friday afternoons, and would serve until Sunday afternoon every other week. In 1948, in addition, he would leave Williamson late Sunday afternoon, and would perform rabbinical services in Welch for Congregation Emanuel on alternate Sunday evenings.

In Williamson, on June 6, 1948, Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman had a Confirmation Class, and in that month he also appeared as the baccalaureate speaker for the high school graduation exercises in Williamson High School. His Confirmation Class published a Religious School Annual, entitled *The Everlasting Light* (June, 1948; Sivan, 5708 — The B'nai Israel Religious School), from which excerpts are presented below, because of their historical

contents and interest. (Jerome W. Grollman most generously made this material, as well as other important data from his personal files, available to me for use in this volume, as well as a number of illustrations of the Williamson, W. Va., community reproduced in this volume.) In the years 1946 to 1948, he helped to organize a Youth Choir for the religious services, as a result of which the congregation later (in 1947) purchased an electronic organ; and he was greatly concerned in the Temple Youth movement in West Virginia.

Excerpts from *The Everlasting Light*

Published by The B'nai Israel Religious School
Williamson, West Virginia

June, 1948 (Sivan, 5708 [A.M.])[1]

Staff Members of *The Everlasting Light*:

Editor: Sonia Stone
Associate Editor: Gloria Levine[2]

Managing Editors	Associates
Richard Wells	Janet Bank
Kay Klayman	Daniel Friedberg
	Sara Ann Stone
	Donald Zappin

Advisor and Sponsor: Mrs. Irving [May] Albert

Temple History

In 1925, the small but ever-growing Jewish community of Williamson recognized the necessity for constructing a Jewish house of worship. Through their [the members'] combined efforts and cooperation, the money was raised to start the

[1] The Confirmation was held, in 1948, on June 6th.

[2] Gloria Levine later married Harold E. Harvit, of Beckley.

building. The lots were donated to the congregation by W. [Wallace] J. Williamson, founder of the city of Williamson.

The actual building began in the year 1926 with an impressive ceremony accompanying the laying of the cornerstone. The principal speaker was the president of the congregation, Harry Schwachter. The architect was Mayne Lowe, of Huntington, West Virginia.

The Temple was completed in the fall of 1927. In the spring of 1928, the dedication of the Temple was held. It was a very impressive service, one that will always remain vivid in the minds of those who worked so hard to realize their dream of a house of worship. The principal speakers were Dr. Edward N. Calisch, of Richmond, Virginia, and Dr. Joseph Rauch, of Louisville, Kentucky.

The Rabbi at the time was Abraham Feinstein,[1] whose dynamic force was an inspiration to the congregation. The officers were: Harry Schwachter, President; and Leo K. Nabe, Secretary-Treasurer.

In the year 1937, the mortgage was paid through the energetic efforts of the Sisterhood and the members of the congregation. A dinner was held for the burning of the mortgage, and Rabbi [Abraham] Feinstein came back to Williamson [from Chattanooga, Tenn.] for the happy occasion. Our [student] rabbi at the time was Alan [S.] Green.[2]

Last year [1947], four men — Charles Ofsa, Leo K. Nabe, Hyman Bank, and Harry Schwachter — presented a beautiful Hammond electric organ to the congregation. On that occasion, an appropriate ceremony was held in the Temple, at which time Rabbi [Student Rabbi Jerome W.] Grollman formally dedicated the organ. Harry Schwachter delivered the presentation address, and Clarence Lovitch responded on behalf of the congregation.

Because of the increased size of the community, existing

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[1] Part-time rabbi of the Williamson congregation, and then chiefly rabbi of Ohev Sholom Congregation, in Huntington.

[2] In 1959, Rabbi Alan S. Green was the rabbi of Temple Emanu El, in Cleveland, Ohio.

facilities have become inadequate. Plans are now being devised to enlarge our quarters.[1]

The present [1947–1948] officers are:

President: Clarence Lovitch
Vice President: Philip Beinhorn
Secretary-Treasurer: Harry Klayman
President of the Temple Sisterhood: Mrs. Sylvan Bank
[Student] Rabbi: Jerome W. Grollman

The Religious School Staff

Rabbi: Jerome W. Grollman

(Jerome W. Grollman introduced the Youth Choir. He planned and organized Williamson's first *Shushan Carnival* as an appropriate celebration for the festival of Purim. He was one of the founders of the Tri-State Jewish Youth Conclave [, of which West Virginia forms a part,] and served as its general chairman in 1947–1948.)

Mrs. May (Irving) Albert
Mrs. Esther Helen Ginsburg, Superintendent
(Superintendent in 1947–1948, and instructor of the Second Grade)
Ethel Gaskel
Gertrude Caplan (instructor of the Pre-Confirmation Class)
Alice Shein
Mrs. Blanche [Samuel N.] Friedberg (Kindergarten Class)
Mrs. Betty (Harry) Klayman (Kindergarten Class)

The Student Body of B'nai Israel Religious School [in 1948]

The Confirmation Class of 1948

Harry Jerome Crigger
Kay Elinor Klayman
Gloria Lee Levine
Sonia Harriet Stone
Richard Isaac Wells
Donald Schaeffer Zappin

[1] This was done in the following years, as stated above.

The Pre-Confirmation Class

Janet Bank
Daniel Friedberg
Sara Ann Stone

The Fourth Grade

Billy [William] Bank
Gloria Ginsburg
Patty [Patricia] Preiser
Gilbert Sherman
Michael Yarus

The Second Grade

Yetta Lee Crigger
Barbara Ginsburg
Richard Goodman
Freddie Lovitch

The Kindergarten

Leo Bank
Steven Bank
Jack Gelperin (of Stone, Ky.)
Betty Ann Ginsburg
Edward Lovitch (of South Williamson, Ky.)
Gary Yarus (of Pikeville, Ky.)

The Youth Choir

Janet Bank
Daniel Friedberg
Gloria Ginsburg
Kay Klayman
Gloria L. Levine
Patty Preiser
Gilbert Sherman
Sara Ann Stone
Sonia H. Stone
Richard I. Wells

The Youth Choir was formed in 1947. The Charter Members of the Youth Choir, which was formed because of the difficulty of organizing an Adult Choir, were: Janet Bank, Harry J. Crigger, Lewis Crigger, Daniel Friedberg, Kay Klayman, Gloria L. Levine, Sara Ann Stone, Sonia H. Stone, and Richard I. Wells. The choir made its first appearance in March, 1948, in connection with the Jewish Music Month program at B'nai Israel Congregation. Additional members of the Youth Choir who joined in 1948 were Gloria Ginsburg, Patty [Patricia] Preiser, and Gilbert Sherman. The Youth Choir participates in the High Holy Day services and in all the Sabbath and holiday services. In addition, an important portion of the program was devoted to the Youth Choir at the dedication ceremonies for the new organ.

The Hebrew Club

Daniel Friedberg
Kay Klayman
Sara Ann Stone
Sonia H. Stone
Richard I. Wells

The Hebrew Club was organized in 1947, under the aegis of Student Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman. Robert Appelbaum, a member of the congregation, was their instructor.

Past Confirmands of Congregation B'nai Israel

1928

Rabbi Abraham Feinstein
Ethel Gaskel
Sylvia Steckler
Ruth Rosenfeld

1930

Rabbi Abraham Feinstein
Bernice Steckler
Gertrude Rosenfeld
Robert Schwachter

1932

Rabbi Abraham Feinstein
Esther Helen Azarch
Gladys Nabe
Betty Schwachter
Melvin Shein
Bernard Zappin

1936

Rabbi Adolph [J.] Feinberg
Charles Mitchel Azarch
Irvine Beinhorn
Gertrude Caplan
Sophia Caplan
Esther Mae Kahn
Charlotte Poliakoff
Joan Rosenfeld
Mary Lou Schwachter

1939

Rabbi Ely [E.] Pilchik
Zella Beinhorn
Sol [Solomon] Brown
Adele Kabot
Harriet Levine
Raphael Wells
Marjorie Gale Zappin

1942

Rabbi Richard [C.] Hertz
Harry Beinhorn
Phylis Caplan
Jerome S. Goodman
Betty Mae Kabot
Robert Klayman
Betty Jean Ofsa
Richard Rubinstein

1946

Rabbi Murray Blackman
Norman Azarch
Paul Friedberg
Jerry Sherman

Business Firms and Jewish Residents of Williamson (1948)

The following Jewish [or non-Jewish] individuals, or business firms, of Williamson had (purchased space for) advertisements, announcements, congratulations, or greetings in the *Everlasting Light* Religious School Bulletin of the Williamson Religious School in June, 1948:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Albert
Irving and May Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Appelbaum
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Azarch
B. & L. Furniture Company
Brown's Dress Shop
Caplan Furniture Company
Cinderella Boot Shop
Cinderella Theatre
Mr. and Mrs. Joe [Joseph] Crigger
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Crigger
Mr. and Mrs. S. [Samuel] N. Friedberg
Ethel Gaskel
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Klayman
Lewis Furniture Company [not locally owned]
Lyric Theatre
Mingo Insurance Company
Mingo Theatre
National Style Center
Nobby's Dress Shop [Nabe?]
Roberts-Morris Store [clothing]
Schwachter's Dress Shop
Senak Home Equipment Company
Sherman's Credit Jewelry Company
Sohn's Men's Shop
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Stone
WBTH (radio station)
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wells
Whiz Auto Parts, Inc. (Pikeville, Ky.)
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Zappin

1949–1950

Bernard Martin. Rabbi Bernard Martin served as the student rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel, in Williamson, from September, 1949, to June, 1950. He was born in Sekernice, Czechoslovakia, on March 13, 1928, and later immigrated to the United States. He received the B.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 1947. In June, 1951, he was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, after several years of study. In September, 1950, a year before his ordination, he began his service as the rabbi of Sinai Temple, in Champaign, Ill., and held this position until September, 1957, when he left Champaign, Ill., to become an associate rabbi of Temple Sinai, in Chicago. In 1959–1960, Bernard Martin was still an associate rabbi of the Chicago Sinai Congregation, serving together with the senior Rabbi Louis L. Mann.

In the latter part of 1961, Rabbi Bernard Martin was elected rabbi of Mount Zion Temple, in St. Paul, Minn.

In a letter written to me from Champaign, Ill., on February 14, 1957, Rabbi Bernard Martin contributed the following data on the Jewish congregation and community of Williamson during the year 1949–1950:

The president of the Williamson congregation in 1949 to 1950 was Clarence Lovitch. The Sisterhood president was Mrs. Sam [N.; Blanche] Friedberg. Leo K. Nabe and Irving Albert were prominent members of the congregation in that year, and Mrs. Leo K. Nabe and Mrs. Irving (May) Albert were notable members of the Williamson Temple Sisterhood.

The Sunday (Religious) School teachers during that year included:

Mrs. Irving (May) Albert
Robert Appelbaum
Mrs. Clarence [Frieda] Lovitch

The Religious School of the Williamson congregation had about 25 children as pupils in 1949 to 1950.

There was a Temple Youth Group of seven members.

In 1949 to 1950, a Williamson Jewish boy, Paul Friedberg (the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel N. [Blanche] Friedberg), served as the national president of the National Federation of Temple Youth. He was active, locally and also on the state level, in the work of the Temple Youth Groups.

1950–1952

MINARD KLEIN. Rabbi Minard Klein served as the student rabbi of the Williamson Congregation B'nai Israel from September, 1950, to June, 1952. He was born in Kansas City, Mo., on September 10, 1921. In 1947 he was graduated from the University of Kansas City with the B.A. degree in sociology. He then entered the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, and was ordained in June, 1952. From Williamson he went directly to Temple Beth El, in Detroit, as assistant rabbi, remaining in that position until the summer of 1956, and being elected associate rabbi for the last year (1955–1956). In September, 1956, he became rabbi of Temple Beth El, in Hollywood, Fla., and after serving in that position until early 1959, he left Hollywood, Fla., to become the rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom, of Park Forest (near Chicago), Ill.

In a letter to me, dated February 27, 1957, and written from Hollywood, Fla., Rabbi Minard Klein presented the following valuable and informative data on the Williamson Jewish congregation and community during the two years (1950 to 1952) of his service there:

"The name of the president of B'nai Israel Congregation, in Williamson, during my two years there was Sol [Solomon] Caplan. The vice president was Morris Ginsburg. William H. Rosen was the congregational treasurer. The superintendent of the Sunday School in 1950 to 1951 was [Mrs.] May Albert; in 1951–1952, it was William H. Rosen.

"President of the Sisterhood in 1950–1952, Mrs. Morris Ginsburg; 1st vice president, 1950–1951, Mrs. Sol Caplan; 1951–1952, Mrs. Walter Goodman; 2nd vice president, 1950–1951,

Mrs. Robert Appelbaum; 1951–1952, Mrs. William [H.] Rosen; recording secretary, 1950–1951, Mrs. Harry Klayman; 1951–1952, Mrs. Saul Brown; corresponding secretary, 1950–1951, Mrs. Frank Bodenger; 1951–1952, Mrs. Danny [Daniel] Moskowitz; treasurer, 1950–1951, Mrs. L. Stein; 1951–1952, Mrs. Alex Preiser.

"Board members of the Sisterhood, for 1950–1951, the officers plus Mrs. Irving (May) Albert and Mrs. H. [Hyman] Bank; for 1951–1952, the officers plus Mrs. Clarence Lovitch, Mrs. L. Stein, and Mrs. Sam Kabat [Kabot].

"Teachers of the Religious School during those years:

Janet Bank
Mrs. Harry Klayman
Danny [Daniel] Moskowitz
William [H.] Rosen
Sara Ann Stone

"Youth Group officers: President, Danny [Daniel] Friedberg; vice president, Sara Ann Stone; treasurer, Gloria Ginsburg.

"The entire Youth Group totaled nine members. Outstanding events during the year were the Chanuko and Purim celebrations, at which time non-Jewish youths were invited to witness the lighting of the candles and an abbreviated reading from the Megillah, followed by a discussion period led by the rabbi.

"The Temple was built in 1922. It was remodeled, and a $40,000 School Building was added in 1953. Alexander [M.] Schindler was the student rabbi then. In the early days of the Temple, Rabbi Abraham Feinstein, now of Chattanooga, would come in once a month from Bluefield[1] to conduct Sunday services.

"Outstanding leaders of the Jewish Community include Harry Schwachter, Clarence Lovitch, and Sam N. Friedberg.

" . . . the Jewish population of Williamson was around 150, and there were no other [Jewish] organizations other than the Temple and the B'nai B'rith (Williamson Lodge [No. 1040]), whose president was William Rosen."

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[1] It was from Huntington; Abraham Feinstein never served as the rabbi of the Bluefield congregation.

1952–1953

ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER. Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler was the student rabbi of B'nai Israel Congregation, in Williamson, from 1952 to 1953. He was born on October 4, 1925, at Munich, Germany, and later he emigrated to the United States, residing in New York City for many years. He was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in June, 1953. Previously, he received the B.S.S. degree from the College of the City of New York (1950). In 1953, upon his ordination, he was appointed assistant rabbi of Temple Emanuel, in Worcester, Mass., and in 1955 he was promoted to the associateship. He held this position at Temple Emanuel, in Worcester, until September, 1959, when he left Worcester and went to Boston, where he was appointed Director of the U. A. H. C. New England Council, with its headquarters in Boston.

In three letters to me, written from Worcester, Mass., on February 27, March 26, and April 11, 1957, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler presented the following valuable and interesting information on the Williamson Jewish congregation and community:

"A Mr. Saul (or Sol) [it was Sol, for Solomon] Caplan was the president of the Williamson congregation while I was student rabbi there. I do not remember the names of any of the other congregational officers. The name of the Sisterhood president was Janet Banks [Bank]. I do not recall the name of the Religious School superintendent other than the fact that he ran a shoe store on Main Street [William H. Rosen]. Other congregants whom I recall are:

Mr. and Mrs. Phil [Philip] Beinhorn
Mr. and Mrs. Lovitt [Clarence and Frieda Lovitch]
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Alpert [Irving and May Albert]
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moskowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Friedberg [Sam N. and Blanche Friedberg]

"These are about all I can remember on the spur of the moment.

"The only event of consequence that took place during my year in Williamson was the dedication of the religious school extension [building], culminating a program initiated by my immediate predecessor, Maynard [Minard] Klein, who subsequently went to Detroit, Michigan [to become assistant rabbi of Congregation Beth El].

"In my year, the B'nai B'rith Lodge in Williamson was not very active, except socially. I no longer recall the B'nai B'rith president for that year. The members met at regular intervals [for social purposes]."[1]

"To the best of my recollection, Janet Banks [Bank] was Sisterhood president during my tenure [1952–1953] in Williamson. At least, she was the most active among the women of the Jewish community.[2]

"I came across a partial list of the members of the Williamson congregation:

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Ginsburg. (Their daughter Gloria Ginsburg was confirmed during the year of my tenure in Williamson. Morris Ginsburg succeeded Sol Caplan as president of the congregation after I left [1953–1954].)

Mr. and Mrs. William Rosen [William H. and Betty Rosen]. (Mr. [William H.] Rosen was the principal of the Religious School during my tenure.)

Mr. and Mrs. Stone [Herman Stone]

Mr. and Mrs. A. Alberts [Albert]

Mr. and Mrs. I. Alberts [Irving and May Albert]

The Friedberg family [Sam N. and Blanche Friedberg]. (Mr. [Samuel N.] Friedberg was . . . [several times] the Repub-

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[1] During his year of officiation in Williamson, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler was extremely active in the Religious School and with the Temple Youth Group, accompanying delegations from both groups, as well as teachers of the Religious School, to youth group conclaves and to institutes for Religious School teachers in several cities of West Virginia.

[2] She was active in both the Youth Group and in the Religious School as well, until she went off to university a year or two after Alexander M. Schindler's last visit to Williamson in June, 1953.

lican candidate for district attorney. His son, Paul Friedberg, was active in the N. F. T. Y. movement, and I believe that he was president of the Ohio Valley Federation of Temple Youth.)

Mr. and Mrs. Applebaum [Robert Appelbaum]. (The daughter and the son-in-law of Sol Caplan.)

Mr. and Mrs. Wells [Kenneth Wells]

Phil and Roseanna Rosedol [Rosedole]

Mr. and Mrs. Max Soon [Sohn]

Mr. and Mrs. W. [Walter] Goodman."

1953–1954

Nathan Bark. Rabbi Nathan Bark served as the student rabbi of the Williamson Congregation B'nai Israel from 1953 to 1954. He was born in Baltimore, Md., on October 7, 1927, and was educated in his native city. In 1945, at the early age of eighteen, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, and served as a Control Tower Operator in the British West Indies. Upon his return to Baltimore, he completed his studies at Johns Hopkins University, in that city, receiving the B.A. degree. He then entered the H. U. C., in Cincinnati, and in 1952 he was awarded the B.H.L. degree; two years later he was ordained by the College (June, 1954), and also received the M.H.L. degree.

After his ordination, Nathan Bark, in the fall of 1954, accepted the Hillel Directorship at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, and served also as the rabbi of the Charlottesville congregation, Beth Israel. In the following summer he traveled to Europe and Israel. In June, 1956, he was elected the assistant rabbi of Temple Judea, in Philadelphia, and held this position until September, 1959, when he became rabbi of Boulevard Temple, also in Philadelphia.

During his less-than-one-year service as the student rabbi of the Williamson congregation, Rabbi Nathan Bark wrote and published a four-page leaflet, entitled *Service for Religious Schools*.

The following information and "human-interest" data about his brief stay in Williamson, and his comments about the Jewish community of that West Virginia city, were culled from Nathan Bark's letter to me, dated February 20, 1957, and written at Philadelphia:

"I was at Williamson for less than a year . . . . I had Williamson as a bi-weekly in my last year at the College. But since I was a mid-year, I stayed from the beginning of the school year in (September or October) 1953 to March of 1954. I succeeded Alex [Alexander M.] Schindler, who was there for two years, and was very friendly with individual members . . . .

"The president was a young man named Sol? [Morris] Ginzburg (I am not sure of the spelling) [it was Ginsburg], who owned a men's shop. The immediate past president then was a Scotch Jew [Sol Caplan?] who owned a furniture store. He is a relative of [Rabbi] Sanford Shapiro [Sanford M. Shapero], who has been graduated from the [Hebrew Union] College [June, 1955] . . . .

"Another name I recall is Bodinger [Frank Bodenger], related to the Ginzburgs [Ginsburgs] . . . . I also recall the name of William (?) Friedman [Sam N. Friedberg?], an attorney, for whose son's Bar Mitzvah I came back to Williamson for a weekend after I had gone to Virginia.

"I cannot recall the number of students in the Religious School, but I would guess it as about 25 to 30 maximum. The school was a beautiful modern addition of about five classrooms to the synagogue building, and they were furnished with the best and latest equipment. At the time this addition was built [1953], the synagogue, too, was renovated. I remember seeing a program of the rededication somewhere in Williamson. I am sure that Alex [Alexander M.] Schindler was student rabbi at that time . . . . I remember being very impressed with the organization of the school. The teachers were all members of the community, with one as principal. (He was a young fellow who worked in the Poll Parrot Shoe Store and was particularly friendly with Alex [Schindler].) [1]

"In general, I was impressed with the whole community

[1] This "young fellow" was William H. Rosen.

set-up. It was a progressive and dynamic community, isolated yet feeling itself a part of the larger Jewish Community outside. The Youth Group was small but active, and never missed a Conclave. The same was true of the Sisterhood.[1] Interestingly enough, the [Jewish] community had little to do with the neighboring communities, like Logan. (I used to travel [from Cincinnati] with Fred Schwartz, who served Logan [the Jewish congregation at Logan], and even had him address the congregation on his Israeli visit on one occasion.

"I recall, too, that the coal crisis hit the community very hard when I was there, and some members began to move out.

"One more name I recall is Hess. He is a jeweler, and was then a relative newcomer. The Hess family are German refugees who are apparently doing very well.

"I am enclosing a picture of the Youth Group. (Janet Banks [Bank] is to my right [left] — to my left [right] is the Ginzburg girl [Gloria Ginsburg] — I cannot recall the other names), and also a service which we had printed up for the Religious School."

1954–1955

SHERMAN STEIN. Sherman Stein (of Brooklyn, N. Y.) served the Williamson Congregation B'nai Israel as student rabbi from 1954 to 1955, during his Senior Year at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati. After his ordination in June, 1955, he entered the United States Air Force as a chaplain, and in 1955 to 1957, for the required two years, he served as a Jewish chaplain with the Air Force. In 1958–1959, he was the rabbi of Temple Sinai, in Portsmouth, Va.

In 1960, Sherman Stein was elected rabbi of Temple of Israel, in Greenville, S. C.

1955–1957

ROBERT J. BLINDER. Robert J. Blinder, of Newton, Mass., a student at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, served as the student rabbi of the Williamson congregation from 1955 to 1957. He was ordained by the College in June, 1957, and from 1957 to 1959 he served as the assistant rabbi of

[1] It was small but active, and never missed being represented at the State Federation conventions.

Temple Israel, in Memphis, Tenn. In September, 1959, he was appointed Hillel Director at the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Fla.

In May, 1962, Rabbi Robert J. Blinder was elected rabbi of Anshe Chesed Congregation, of Vicksburg, Miss. He was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, in 1957.

1957–1959

WILLIAM J. LEFFLER, II. William J. Leffler, II (of Tuckahoe, N. Y.), who in 1958–1959, was a fourth-year student at the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, served as the student rabbi of the Williamson congregation for the two-year period 1957 to 1959. He was ordained by the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati, on June 6, 1959. In 1959–1960 he was in Israel.

In 1960, William J. Leffler, II, was elected rabbi of Congregation Beth Jacob, in Concord, N. H.

1959–1960

MARTIN SIEGEL. Martin Siegel (of Brooklyn, N. Y.) served in 1959–1960 as the biweekly student rabbi of the Williamson congregation, from the H. U. C. - J. I. R., in Cincinnati.

In May, 1962, Rabbi Martin Siegel (ordained by the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, in Cincinnati, in 1960) was elected rabbi of The Woodsdale Temple, in Wheeling, after serving as a chaplain in the United States Navy from 1960 to 1962.

THE WILLIAMSON TEMPLE SISTERHOOD

The Williamson Sisterhood (The Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel) affiliated with the N. F. T. S. on June 9, 1922, with 12 members. There is no record of the name of the local Sisterhood president at that time. The secretary then was Mrs. Simon (Leah) Shein. In subsequent years, Mrs. Simon Shein, Mrs. Irving (May) Albert, Mrs. Alex Preiser, Mrs. Frieda (Clarence) Lovitch, and Mrs. Frank Bodenger became active in the work of the Sisterhood on the State Federation level.

The presidents of the Williamson Sisterhood for the years 1948 on include the following:

Mrs. Sylvan Bank (1948–1949)
Mrs. Sam N. (Blanche) Friedberg (1949–1950)
Mrs. Morris Ginsburg (1950–1952)
Miss Janet Bank (1952–1953)
Mrs. Irving (May) Albert (1956–1957)
Mrs. William H. (Betty) Rosen (1957–1958)

Most active of the membership of the Williamson Sisterhood at the local level in the 1950's and previously have been the following:

Mrs. Irving (May) Albert
Mrs. Frank Bodenger
Mrs. Sol [Saul] Brown
Mrs. Sol (Gertrude) Caplan
Mrs. Sam N. (Blanche) Friedberg
Mrs. Walter Goodman
Mrs. Harry (Betty) Klayman
Mrs. Frieda (Clarence) Lovitch
Mrs. Leo K. Nabe
Mrs. Alex (Mildred) Preiser
Mrs. William H. (Betty) Rosen
Mrs. Simon (Leah) Shein

The Williamson Sisterhood Members (1950–1957)

The following ladies of the Williamson Jewish community have been members of the Sisterhood in the years from 1950 on:

(40 members)

Mrs. A. Albert
Mrs. Charles Albert
Mrs. Irving (May) Albert
Mrs. Robert Appelbaum
Mrs. Louis Azarch
Mrs. Hyman Bank
Miss Janet Bank
Mrs. Sylvan Bank
Mrs. Norman Belford
Mrs. Harry Beinhorn
Mrs. Philip (Lakie) Beinhorn
Mrs. Frank Bodenger
Mrs. Saul Brown
Mrs. Sol (Gertrude) Caplan
Mrs. Joe [Joseph] Crigger
Mrs. Nathan Crigger
Mrs. Sam N. (Blanche) Friedberg
Ethel Gaskel
Mrs. Morris (Esther Helen) Ginsburg
Mrs. Sidney Goodman
Mrs. Walter Goodman
Mrs. — Hess
Mrs. Sam Kabot
Mrs. Betty (Harry) Klayman
Mrs. Saul Levine
Mrs. Frieda (Clarence) Lovitch
Mrs. Daniel Moskowitz

Mrs. Leo K. Nabe
Mrs. Alex (Mildred) Preiser
Mrs. Phil (Roseanna) Rosedole
Mrs. William H. (Betty) Rosen
Mrs. Harry Schwachter
Mrs. Simon (Leah) Shein
Mrs. Helen Sherman
Mrs. Max Sohn
Mrs. L. Stein
Mrs. Herman Stone
Mrs. Kenneth Wells
Mrs. Tony Zappin

Sisterhood Officers for 1957–1958

President: Mrs. William H. (Betty) Rosen
1st Vice President: Mrs. Harry (Betty) Klayman
2nd Vice President: Mrs. Frank Bodenger
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Harry Beinhorn
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Norman Belford
Treasurer: Mrs. Robert Appelbaum

In 1956–1957, Mrs. Irving (May) Albert served as the president of the Williamson Temple Sisterhood. In 1957, the Williamson Sisterhood completed its records for four Eternal Books, containing the complete records of Marriages, Births, Confirmations, and Bar Mitzvahs from the beginning of the history of the Williamson Congregation B'nai Israel.

In 1958–1959, the B'nai Israel Temple Sisterhood had a membership of thirty-five.

The Williamson Sisterhood in the West Virginia State Federation

Two State conventions of the W. V. F. T. S. were held in Williamson: in 1931 and in 1946.

1931

The 9th annual State Convention of the W. V. F. T. S. was held in Williamson on October 18 to 20, 1931.

1946

The 24th annual State Convention was held at Williamson on October 27 to 28, 1946, with the president, Mrs. Godfrey R.

Millstone, of Morgantown, in the chair. Rabbi Louis J. Cashdan, then the new rabbi of the Virginia Street Temple, of Charleston, installed the new officers for the year 1946–1947. Mrs. Sidney Wallens, of Buffalo, N. Y., the national chairman of the Peace and World Government Committee of the N. F. T. S., gave the main address, on the subject, "Translating the Principles of Judaism into Everyday Life."

1951–1953

Mrs. Irving (May) Albert, of Williamson, was elected 1st vice president of the State Sisterhood Federation at the Charleston Convention, held on September 23 to 24, 1951. She served in this position for the two-year period 1951 to 1953.

1953–1955

Mrs. May (Irving) Albert was elected president of the State Federation, for the two-year period 1953 to 1955, at the 31st annual State Convention, held at Beckley, on October 11 to 12, 1953. At the same Convention, Mrs. Frank Bodenger, of Williamson, was elected State Sisterhood corresponding secretary for the two-year period from 1953 to 1955.

1954

The Southern Regional Meeting of the W. V. F. T. S. was held at Temple B'nai Israel, in Williamson, on September 23, 1954. Mrs. William Leffler, of New York, National Chairman of District Federations of the N. F. T. S., presided at the two sessions, morning and afternoon, which included a leadership training institute, and spoke in the morning on the subjects of parliamentary procedure, qualities of leadership, and methods and manners of leadership, and, at the afternoon session, on the subject, "Backgrounds and Institutions of Reform Judaism." Four West Virginia rabbis attended these sessions: Herbert J. Wilner, then of Bluefield; Theodore S. Levy, then of Huntington; Samuel Volkman, of Charleston; and Abraham I. Shinedling, then of Beckley. All four rabbis participated in the program and in the discussions which followed Mrs. Leffler's presenta-

tions. Mrs. Julian (Gertrude) Budnick, of Keystone, W. Va., for the Welch Emanuel Sisterhood, vice president of the State Sisterhood, presided at both sessions.

At the afternoon session, panels on the U. A. H. C., N. F. T. S., N. F. T. B., and N. F. T. Y. were held, respectively, by Mrs. Isadore (Anna H.) Katzen, of Welch; Mrs. Sidney L. (Helen B.) Rosenthal, of Bluefield; Mrs. Samuel (Sally) Volkman, of Charleston; and Mrs. Charles (Helaine) Rotgin, of Charleston.

Williamson Sisterhood members who served on the several committees of the Regional Meeting are listed below. Rabbi Abraham I. Shinedling gave the opening invocation at the morning session and pronounced the Grace before the Meal at the luncheon which was served by the Williamson Sisterhood; and Rabbi Theodore S. Levy and Herbert J. Wilner gave the opening and closing benedictions, respectively, at the afternoon session.

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Clarence (Frieda) Lovitch
Mrs. Hyman Bank
Mrs. Sol (Gertrude) Caplan
Mrs. Sam N. (Blanche) Friedberg
Mrs. Morris (Esther Helen) Ginsburg
Mrs. Walter (Jimmy) Goodman
Mrs. Harry Schwachter

1955–1957

From 1955 to 1957, Mrs. Clarence [Frieda] Lovitch, of Williamson, served as the State Chairman of the *YES* (*Y*outh, *E*ducation, and *S*isterhood) of the State Federation, and Mrs. Irving (May) Albert served on the National Board of the N. F. T. S., in the Department of Religion and Education, as the representative from West Virginia.

1957–1959

In 1957 to 1959, Mrs. Walter [Jimmy] Goodman, of Williamson, served as the Stationery Committee Chairman of the State Sisterhood, and Mrs. Alex (Mildred) Preiser served as the

chairman of the Uniongram Committee of the State Federation. Mrs. William H. (Betty) Rosen was elected the president of the Williamson Sisterhood for the year 1957 to 1958. It is of unusual interest that Mrs. William H. Rosen is a "native" of Williamson, having been born in that city.

The 32nd State Federation Convention is scheduled to be held in Williamson in 1961, with the Logan Sisterhood acting as co-hostesses with the Williamson Sisterhood.

The Religious School of B'nai Israel Congregation (1956–1957)

In 1956–1957, the Religious School of B'nai Israel Congregation had 21 children, divided into 4 classes, with the following 9 teachers, two of them being substitute teachers:

Robert Appelbaum
Student Rabbi Robert J. Blinder
Gertrude (Mrs. Sol) Caplan
Barbara Ginsburg
Richard Goodman (substitute teacher)
Frieda (Mrs. Clarence) Lovitch (substitute teacher)
Edward Moskowitz
Patricia Preiser
William H. Rosen (teacher and superintendent)

The Williamson Temple Youth Group

In 1956–1957, the B'nai Israel Temple Youth Group had six members, and their adult adviser was Mrs. Frieda (Clarence) Lovitch.

The Williamson B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 1040

Williamson Lodge, No. 1040, of the B'nai B'rith, is a member of the State Council, and of D. G. L., No. 3. William H. Rosen served as its president in 1950 to 1952. In 1959, the Williamson Lodge of the B'nai B'rith was reported to be inactive, and to play no part in the State Council activities and meetings in recent years.

Brief Notes

Samuel N. Friedberg. In 1960–1961, Samuel N. Friedberg, prominent attorney of Williamson, was serving as a special judge in the city (Mingo County).

Harold E. Harvit. In 1962, Harold E. Harvit (born at Beckley, on July 14, 1932) and his wife, the former Gloria L. Levine, of Williamson, were residing in Williamson, where he was employed as the manager of a credit clothing store. For three years, from 1954 to 1957, Harold E. Harvit had served as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Army. They moved to Williamson in November, 1957. Their two children are Marilyn K. (born on September 29, 1957) and Elliot W. (born on October 11, 1960) Harvit.

Robert B. Harvit. In March, 1962, Robert B. Harvit (born at Beckley, on January 29, 1938) and his wife, the former Stephanie Sloman, of Charleston, and their young daughter, Kathe E. Harvit (born at Beckley, on April 16, 1961), moved to Williamson, where he began service as the manager of Radio Station WBTH. He had previously served as program and news director and sales manager of Radio Station WWNR, of Beckley, from 1958 to 1962.

Milton Rubenstein. Milton Rubenstein moved to Williamson from Beckley in the early 1940's.

Bernard E. Silverman. Dr. Bernard E. Silverman, late Beckley and Raleigh County chiropodist, paid monthly professional visits to Williamson in the period from *ca.* 1939 to 1951. Williamson having no chiropodist, Dr. Silverman used to service a wide area including half a dozen of the counties of that region of West Virginia, as well as Williamson itself, although it is about 100 miles west northwest of Beckley.

WILLIAMSTOWN

Williamstown is a trade city located in a farming district in Wood County, in northwestern West Virginia, on the Ohio River, across from, and south of, Marietta, Ohio. It was settled in the year 1787. Williamstown has a glass manufacturing plant, and is known for its manufacture of ceramics and art glass. In 1950, the United States Census gave the city of Williamstown a total general population of 2,001. In 1940, the city had a general population of 1,687.

In 1957–1958, there were no Jews residing in Williamstown, and, so far as can now be ascertained, no Jewish families or individuals ever resided in the city. The Jews settling in the region evidently preferred Parkersburg, W. Va., and Marietta, Ohio, which are both in the vicinity, and which are both much larger cities.

IV

Little-Known Villages, Towns, and Localities of West Virginia (With No Jewish Population at Any Time)

THE following eighty-eight or more little-known and smaller towns, villages, and other localities of West Virginia apparently never had any Jewish residents at any time in their history, and had no Jews residing within their borders in the year 1957–1958. These eighty-eight or more towns, villages, and little localities made up a considerable portion of the total general population assigned to West Virginia by the United States Census in the year 1950 (2,005,552), yet not a single Jew, whether individual or family, was to be found residing, settled, or working therein in 1957–1958.

ACCOVILLE-BRAEHOLM

The combined community, or locality, of Accoville-Braeholm is located in Logan County, southeast of Logan, and west of Beckley. It is unincorporated. According to the 1950 United States Census, Accoville-Braeholm had a general population of 2,386. In 1950, Accoville alone had a general population of about 1,400, and Braeholm 950. It is in a coal-mining area. In 1935 to 1940, Accoville had a population of about 1,000.

ADDISON

See under WEBSTER SPRINGS

Addison, or Webster Springs, is the county seat of Webster County, in east central West Virginia, southwest of Elkins. It is located in a timber, farming, and mining area. Addison was settled, under that name, in 1860. In 1890 the site was

incorporated as Addison, but it is known, preferably, as Webster Springs. Strangely enough, its official corporate name is still Addison. The town is known as being a center for sportsmen.

ALGONIA-ELKRIDGE

The two localities of Algonia-Elkridge, unincorporated, had a combined general population of 1,100 in 1950, according to the United States Census.

ALPOCA-BUD

The two localities of Alpoca-Bud, unincorporated, in Wyoming County, near Mullens, located in a coal-mining district, had, in 1950, a general population of 1,056, according to the United States Census. In 1935 to 1940 its general population (Alpoca) was about 300. In 1950, Alpoca alone had a general population of about 800.

AMHERSTDALE-ROBINETTE

The combined locality of Amherstdale-Robinette, unincorporated, is located in Logan County, near Accoville, and southeast of Logan, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, the United States Census attributed to these combined localities a total general population of 2,387, which was believed to have declined to about 2,200 by 1955. In 1935 to 1940, their combined general population was about 1,500. In 1950, Amherstdale had a general population of 2,200 persons, and the much smaller Robinette had only 180 inhabitants.

ANMOORE

Anmoore, unincorporated, is located in Harrison County, in north central West Virginia, near Bridgeport, and a short distance east of Clarksburg. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Anmoore had a general population of 1,388. In 1935 to 1940 its general population was about 1,200.

ANSTED

Ansted is a town in Fayette County, in southern West Virginia, southeast of Charleston and of Montgomery. It is north of Beckley, and near Gauley Bridge. Settled in the year 1790, the town of Ansted is noted as a rather large trade center for a coal-mining region. In 1950, Ansted had a general population of 1,543, according to the United States Census. In 1940 to 1950, its general population was 1,422.

BARTLEY

Bartley is an unincorporated coal-mining town located southwest of Welch, in the southern part of McDowell County, on Dry Fork, between Bradshaw and English. In 1959, its general population was reported to be 1,257. The United States Census for 1950 gave the town a general population of 1,275; and in 1935 to 1940, its general population was only about 500. Apparently, there were never any Jewish residents in Bartley, although some of the smaller towns around Welch in McDowell County did have some in the past.

According to the general view, Bartley received its name from an early local landowner by the name of Bartley Rose. Other local historians, however, incline to the view that the town was named after Bartley Creek.

(The above data on the town of Bartley were, for the most part, excerpted from Mrs. Samuel Solins' and Mrs. Paul W. Jones's small volume dealing with the history of McDowell County, W. Va., which has been referred to above a number of times.)

BEAVER (GLEN HEDRICK)

Beaver (or Glen Hedrick) is located in Raleigh County, in south central West Virginia, near and contiguous to (south of) Beckley. It is unincorporated. In 1950, Beaver had a general population of 1,484, according to the United States Census. In 1935 to 1940, Beaver's general population was 450. Glen Hedrick is its local name.

BERWIND

Berwind, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, southwest of Gary, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, its general population was 1,354.

BOOMER-HAREWOOD

Boomer is a residential town in Fayette County, near Montgomery, in south central West Virginia, southeast of Charleston. It is unincorporated. In 1950, the United States Census gave the two localities of Boomer and Harewood, combined, a general population of 2,096. Boomer alone, in that year, had a general population of 1,900. In 1935 to 1940, Boomer had a general population of 1,213; and in 1940 to 1950, Boomer-Harewood had a combined general population of 2,200.

BRADSHAW

Bradshaw, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, southwest of Welch, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Bradshaw had a general population of 1,062.

CANNELTON-CARBONDALE

The combined localities of Cannelton-Carbondale, unincorporated, are located in Fayette County, near Montgomery and Fayetteville, in south central West Virginia. In 1950, according to the United States Census, they had a combined general population of 1,211; Cannelton alone had a population of 700 in 1950. In 1935 to 1940, Cannelton alone had a general population of 521.

CARETTA

Caretta, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, in southwestern West Virginia, west of Gary, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, the United States Census gave Caretta a general population of 1,856. In 1935 to 1940, Caretta (Juno) had a general population of 575.

CARSWELL

Carswell, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, east of Welch, in southwestern West Virginia, in a coal-mining region. Its general population in 1950 was 1,428, according to the United States Census.

CHAPMANVILLE

Chapmanville is located in Logan County, north of the city of Logan. The United States Census of 1950 gave Chapmanville a general population of 1,349. It is a coal-mining place.

CHATTAROY

Chattaroy, unincorporated, is located in Mingo County, northwest of Williamson, and on the Kentucky border. It is in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, it had a general population of 1,484. In 1935 to 1940, Chattaroy had a general population of 526.

CHELYAN-CABIN CREEK (CABINCREEK) JUNCTION

Chelyan-Cabin Creek (Cabincreek) Junction, unincorporated, is located southeast of Charleston, in Kanawha County. Cabin Creek is east of Chelyan; the latter place is located on the new West Virginia Turnpike running 88 miles from near Princeton to Charleston. Cabin Creek is on the Kanawha River. The 1950 United States Census gave the two localities, combined, and unincorporated, a general population of 1,616. The population of Chelyan was about 750, and that of Cabin Creek (Cabincreek) about 850, in 1950. In 1935 to 1940, the locality of Chelyan had some 800 population.

Harry Abel, of Mount Hope, W. Va., apparently lived in Cabin Creek for two or three years after 1900 and up to 1906, operating a clothing store. In 1906 he left Cabin Creek (if he actually lived there) and gave up his store, moving permanently to Mount Hope, where he died in December, 1954.

CHESAPEAKE

Chesapeake, located in Kanawha County, southeast of Charleston, had a general population of 2,566 in 1950, according to the United States Census.

CLAY

Clay, the county seat of Clay County, in central West Virginia, is located north of Summersville. In 1935, its general population was 444, and in 1950 the United States Census gave it a general population of 500. In 1955, its general population was 511.

COAL FORK

Coal Fork, unincorporated, is located in Kanawha County, southeast of Charleston, in a coal-mining region. In 1950 it had a general population of 1,185, according to the United States Census. Other figures gave its population in 1950 as about 1,400. In 1935 to 1940, its general population was 312.

COALWOOD

Coalwood, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, southwest of Welch, in a coal-mining region. In 1950 the United States Census gave Coalwood a general population of 1,310. In 1935 to 1940 Coalwood's general population was 359.

CORA-MOUNT GAY

The combined communities of Cora-Mount Gay, unincorporated, are located in Logan County, west of the city of Logan, in a coal-mining region. In 1950 the United States Census gave Cora-Mount Gay a combined general population of 4,201, although in 1935 to 1940 Cora alone was reported to have had a general population of only 260. In 1950, Mount Gay had a general population of about 2,600, and Cora had about 1,600 inhabitants.

CRAB ORCHARD

Crab Orchard, virtually a suburb of Beckley, is located in Raleigh County, a few miles southwest of Beckley. It is part of the Beckley area, and is a fast-growing locality. In 1950, the United States Census gave Crab Orchard a general population of 1,544, whereas in 1935 to 1940 it had only 81 persons living within its borders.

CRAWLEY

Crawley, unincorporated, is located in Greenbrier County, northwest of Lewisburg, and east of Rainelle. In 1940, its general population was only 40, but by 1955 this had greatly increased. In 1950, the United States Census gave Crawley a population of 100 persons.

Crawley did not, and does not, have any Jewish residents. Bernie J. Blankenship (in nearby Rupert, W. Va., three miles from Crawley) (Bernie J. Blankenship [and his parents]), previously reported to be Jewish, and as having served as a private first class in the Second World War in the United States Army, was later (in August, 1957) reported by James E. Smith, of Crawley, to be non-Jewish. James E. Smith, who conducts a general store in Crawley, wrote me at that time:

"I am fifty years of age, and grew up here [in Crawley, W. Va.], and there have never been any Jewish families here in my time. Crawley is just a small community, and it is not incorporated."

CROSS CREEK

Cross Creek, unincorporated, located in Brooke County, northeast of Wheeling, and south of Follansbee, had, in 1950, a general population of 1,445, according to the United States Census.

CRUMPLER

Crumpler, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, near Welch, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, the United States

Census gave Crumpler a general population of 1,007; in 1935 to 1940, Crumpler had a general population of only 125.

CUCUMBER-NEWHALL

The combined localities of Cucumber-Newhall, unincorporated, are located in McDowell County, near War, W. Va., and south of Welch, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Cucumber-Newhall had a general population of 1,098. Surprisingly enough — a fact which illustrates the rapid growth of some of the coalfield towns of West Virginia — at least until 1953 or 1954, when a recession set in — Cucumber was reported, in 1935 to 1940, to have had only 16 persons living within its borders. In 1950, the United States Census gave Cucumber alone a general population of 450, and the locality of Newhall 640 inhabitants.

DELBARTON

Delbarton is located in Mingo County, northeast of Williamson, in a coal-mining area. In 1950, Delbarton had a general population of 1,353, according to the United States Census.

DESPARD

Despard, unincorporated, located in Harrison County, east of Clarksburg, had a general population, in 1950, of 1,976, according to the United States Census.

EAST VIEW

East View, unincorporated, is located in Harrison County, adjacent to Clarksburg. In 1950, it had a general population of 1,642, according to the United States Census.

ECCLES

Eccles, in Raleigh County, about 7 miles west of Beckley, is practically a part of the Beckley area, and is in a coal-mining

area. It is unincorporated. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Eccles had a general population of 1,885. In 1935 to 1940, its general population was given as 1,027.

No Jewish families have ever lived in Eccles, but for several years before she moved from Beckley to Florida, until June, 1955, Sylvia Favish taught in the Eccles Junior High School.

ECKMAN

Eckman, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, east of Welch, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Eckman had a general population of 1,574.

ELBERT

Elbert, unincorporated, located in McDowell County, south of Welch, had a general population of 1,565 in 1950, according to the United States Census.

ELKHORN

Elkhorn, unincorporated, located in McDowell County, northwest of Bluefield and southeast of Welch, and not far from North Fork, had, in 1950, according to the United States Census, a general population of 1,035. In 1935 to 1940, its general population was 1,285. It is in a coal-mining region.

ENGLISH

English is a town in southwestern West Virginia, located in McDowell County, on Dry Fork, southwest of Welch, and between Caretta and Bartley. It was originally called by the name of Perryville, and on two occasions (from 1858 to 1864, and again from 1872 to 1892) it served as the county seat of McDowell County; in the latter year (1892) the county seat was permanently transferred to Welch, by popular vote.

Originally, English (then known as Perryville) was a well-patronized grain-milling center, with many farmers of the

neighborhood bringing their grain to be ground to the mill owned by George W. Payne in the 1850's. Then it became a trading center. The Act of the General Assembly of Virginia of February 20, 1858, creating McDowell County, set up Perryville as the county seat ("as the seat of justice," as the official text read). In 1865, Perryville was the largest locality in the entire county of some 553 square miles. In 1898, the name of the town was changed from Perryville to English, presumably at the prompting of some United States Post Office authorities, who desired to avoid confusion with the nearby settlements of Paynesville and Pineville. It is probable that the name English was chosen because a large number of the settlers were of English origin.

According to the 1950 United States Census, English had a general population of 950, and at that time it was said to have four modern-built stores which served as a sufficient shopping center for the surrounding neighborhood of still smaller stores. Other sources give the population of English, as of 1940 and thereafter, at only about 200.

(Most of the data above presented about English and Perryville were gleaned from Mrs. Samuel Solins' and Mrs. Paul W. Jones's *McDowell County History: A Pictorial History of McDowell County* [1959], page 31.)

English, or Perryville, apparently, never had any Jewish residents or settlers.

ETHEL

Ethel, unincorporated, is located in Logan County, east of the city of Logan, in a coal-mining region. The United States Census of 1950 gave Ethel a general population of 1,032. In 1935 to 1940, it had a general population of 411.

FALLS VIEW (FALLSVIEW)-CHARLTON HEIGHTS

Falls View (Fallsview)-Charlton Heights, combined and unincorporated, located in Fayette County, near Fayetteville, had a general population of 1,038 in 1950, according to the United

States Census. Falls View alone had a general population of about 800 in 1950, and Charlton Heights had 230.

FILBERT

Filbert, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, south of Welch and Gary, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, it had a general population of 1,214. In 1935 to 1940, its general population was 1,231.

GAULEY BRIDGE

Gauley Bridge is an unincorporated village, located in Fayette County, in south central West Virginia, at the confluence of the New River and the Gauley River, where these two rivers join together to form the Kanawha River. Gauley Bridge is southeast of Charleston, north of Fayetteville, and near Ansted. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Gauley Bridge had a general population of 1,134. In 1935 it was reported to have a general population of 1,250, and in 1940 to 1950, of 937.

GLEN HEDRICK

For Glen Hedrick, *see* Beaver.

GLEN ROGERS

Glen Rogers, unincorporated, is located in Wyoming County, southwest of Beckley, and north of Pineville. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Glen Rogers had a general population of 1,593; in 1935 to 1940, its general population had been about 200.

GRANT TOWN

Grant Town, located in Marion County, north of Fairmont, had, in 1950, a general population of 1,273, according to the United States Census.

GRANVILLE (MONA)

Granville (Mona), located in Monongalia County, northwest of Morgantown, had in 1950, according to the United States Census, a general population of 1,004. In 1935, it had a general population of 318. Granville is the corporate and railroad name for Mona.

HANDLEY

Handley, unincorporated, is located in Kanawha County, near Montgomery. It had a general population of 1,007 in 1950, according to the United States Census.

HENLAWSON

Henlawson, unincorporated, located in Logan County, near the city of Logan, had a general population of 1,750 in 1950, according to the United States Census. In 1935 to 1940, it had only 219 inhabitants. It is located in a coal-mining region.

HETZEL

Hetzel, located in a coal-mining section of West Virginia, in Logan County, in southwestern West Virginia, east of the city of Logan, had a general population of 312 in 1940. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Hetzel had a general population of 300.

According to the records of the National Jewish Welfare Board, Samuel W. Block, of Hetzel, presumably Jewish by birth, served as a private in the United States Army in the Second World War, was awarded the Purple Heart, and was killed in action against the enemy. However, it is not now believed that he was a Jew. There is no evidence that Jewish families ever lived in Hetzel.

HOLDEN-BEEBE

Holden and Beebe, unincorporated, are situated a few miles south or southwest of Logan, in Logan County, in a coal-mining

region. In 1950, the combined localities had a general population of 2,229, according to the United States Census; in 1950, Holden had about 2,000, and Beebe about 200 inhabitants. In 1935, Holden alone had, reportedly, a general population of 4,000, a figure which was apparently much too high. In 1937, Holden (in Logan County) was reported in the *AJYB* as having a Jewish population of 10 or less.

HOPEWELL

Hopewell, unincorporated, located in Fayette County, northeast of Fayetteville, had in 1950 a general population of 1,159, according to the United States Census. Its population, included with Victor, which is north of it, amounted to about 1,100, and that of Victor to about 400, in 1950.

HUGHESTON-LOUDON

The combined localities of Hugheston-Loudon, unincorporated, are situated in Kanawha County, southeast of Charleston. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Hugheston-Loudon had a combined general population of 1,796; Hugheston alone had a population of 590 at that time. In 1935, Hugheston had a general population of 219 persons.

IAEGER

Iaeger, a coal-mining locality in McDowell County, west of Welch, and situated on the main line of the Norfolk & Western Railroad, had a general population of 1,271 in 1950, according to the United States Census. It is believed that at one time, in previous years, a Jewish family or two lived in Iaeger, but there is no evidence to this effect, and its (or their) name (or names) is (or are) not known. There were no Jews living in Iaeger in 1957–1958, and there apparently never had been, according to Mrs. Milton (Sarah) Gottlieb, who lived in nearby War, W. Va., for many years before she and her husband moved to Florida about the year 1958.

Additional data about the locality of Iaeger have been excerpted as follows from Mrs. Samuel Solins' and Mrs. Paul W. Jones's valuable little work, *McDowell County History: A Pictorial History of McDowell County, West Virginia* (1959), page 32:

Small as Iaeger is, it is an important trading center for some ten or more smaller localities around it. Iaeger is located on the main line of the Norfolk & Western Railroad between Norfolk and Cincinnati, northwest of Welch.

Originally, Iaeger was called Lewis' Camp, since the story goes that Major Andrew Lewis, in February, 1756, camped there, with a contingent of Virginia soldiers, while they were moving west from the eastern seabord of Virginia to attack some Indians who had been raiding white settlements located farther west. After that, the locality came to be called Iaeger (perhaps originally from the German word *Jäger*, meaning "hunter" or "huntsman"), and it was so named after Colonel William G. W. Iaeger (obviously a name of Germanic origin). William G. W. Iaeger's son, Dr. William Rodenfield Iaeger, served for a long number of years as a physician in the Iaeger area. Before its name was finally changed to Iaeger, it had been called also, for some time, by the name of Williamsburg, after Dr. William Rodenfield Iaeger's father above-mentioned, but this name of Williamsburg was given up in favor of the family name Iaeger, possibly in order to avoid confusion with, and duplication of, the already extant Williamsburg, in southeastern Virginia, which had been first settled in 1633 and incorporated in 1722.

Apparently, there were no Jewish families at all among the pioneer settlers and merchants of Iaeger.

JENKINJONES

Jenkinjones, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, west of Bluefield and east of War. In 1950, the United States Census gave Jenkinjones a general population of 1,859. In 1935, it had a population of about 800. It is in a coal-mining region.

KAYFORD-ACME

The combined localities of Kayford-Acme, unincorporated, located in Kanawha County, northwest of Oak Hill, had, in 1950, according to the United States Census, a general population of 1,479. Kayford, in 1950, had about 1,000 inhabitants, and Acme had a population of about 450 persons. Like Oak Hill, Kayford-Acme is in a coal-mining and farming region. In 1935, Kayford alone had a general population of 750. Kayford-Acme, Kingston, and many other smaller towns and localities in Fayette County make Oak Hill a sizeable commercial and trading city.

KINGSTON

Kingston, unincorporated, is located in Fayette County, west of Oak Hill, in a farming and coal-mining region. In 1950, the United States Census gave Kingston a general population of 1,098. In 1935 to 1940, Kingston had a general population of about 1,500.

KISTLER

Kistler, unincorporated, is located in Logan County, southeast of the city of Logan, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, it had a general population of 1,072, according to the United States Census. In 1935 to 1940, Kistler's general population was 519.

KOPPERSTON

Kopperston, unincorporated, is located in Wyoming County, west of Beckley and of Eccles, and north of Pineville, in southern West Virginia. In 1950, it had a general population of 1,112, according to the United States Census.

LILLY GROVE

Lilly Grove, unincorporated, located in Mercer County, near Princeton, had, in 1950, a general population of 1,023, according to the United States Census.

LORADO

Lorado, unincorporated, is located in Logan County, southeast of the city of Logan, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Lorado had a general population of 1,087. In 1935 to 1940, its general population was about 400.

LUNDALE-CRANECO

The combined localities of Lundale-Craneco, unincorporated, are situated in Logan County, southeast of the city of Logan, in a coal-mining area. In 1950, they had, together, a general population of 1,115, according to the United States Census. Lundale alone had a general population of about 1,000, and Craneco about 110. In 1935 to 1940, Lundale had a general population of 525.

MABSCOTT

Mabscott is a coal-mining town in southern West Virginia, adjacent to and southwest of Beckley, of whose area it forms an integral part. Mabscott was incorporated in 1906. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Mabscott had a general population of 1,665. In 1940 to 1950, its general population was 1,473. In 1935 to 1940, its general population was 1,260.

No Jewish families ever resided in Mabscott, but Charles H. Levine, in 1958, still operated his Raleigh Junk Company in Mabscott, as he had done for many years during his residence in Beckley (1939–1957) before he and his son, Robert H. Levine, moved away from Beckley to Charleston.

MACARTHUR

MacArthur, unincorporated, is located in Raleigh County, near and southwest of Beckley. It was named after General Douglas A. MacArthur, a United States hero of the Second World War, during which period the locality was, apparently, first intensively settled. It is a part of the greater Beckley region.

In 1950, according to the United States Census, MacArthur had a general population of 1,650.

MCCOMAS

McComas, unincorporated, is located in Mercer County, northeast of Bluefield, near the McDowell County line. In 1950, the United States Census gave McComas a general population of 2,999. In 1935 to 1940, the general population of McComas was 420.

MCMECHEN

McMechen is a residential city, located in Marshall County, in northern West Virginia, on the Ohio River, in the industrial Northern Panhandle of the State, 5 miles north of Moundsville. It was incorporated in 1895. In 1950, according to the United States Census, McMechen had a general population of 3,518. In 1940 to 1950, its general population was 3,726; and in 1935 it was 3,710.

MAITLAND-SUPERIOR

The combined localities of Maitland-Superior, unincorporated, located in McDowell County, in southern West Virginia, east of Welch and west of Keystone, were, in 1950, according to the United States Census, given a combined general population of 1,697. In that year, Maitland alone had 540 population, and Superior 950. In 1935 to 1940, Maitland alone had a general population of about 500 persons. It is located in a coal-mining region.

MALLORY

Mallory, unincorporated, is located in Logan County, near the city of Logan, in southern West Virginia, in a coal-mining area. In 1950, it had a general population of 1,286, according to the United States Census. In 1935 to 1940, the general population of Mallory had been only 212.

MARYTOWN

Marytown, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, northwest of Welch, near the border of Wyoming County. According to the United States Census of 1950, Marytown had a general population of 1,268.

MAUD

Maud (sometimes spelled as Maude), unincorporated, is located in the northwestern part of Wetzel County, in north central West Virginia, south of Moundsville, and near New Martinsville. It is a rural area. In 1940, it had a general population of 88.

Isaac D. Hornback, of Maude, W. Va., is listed in the records of the National Jewish Welfare Board as a Jewish soldier from Maud who served in the United States Army in the Second World War, and died a non-combat death. However, it is now not believed that Isaac D. Hornback was a Jew.

MONA

For Mona, *see* Granville.

MONAVILLE-RASSMORE

The combined localities of Monaville-Rassmore, unincorporated, are located in Logan County, south of the city of Logan, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, the combined localities had a general population of 1,833. Monaville alone had a general population of 1,200 in 1950. In 1935 to 1940, Monaville alone was reported to have had a general population of 211 persons.

MOUNT CLARE

Mount Clare, located in Harrison County, in northern West Virginia, southeast of Clarksburg, is unincorporated. Its railroad name is Byron. In 1950, according to the United States Census,

Mount Clare had a general population of 1,236. In 1935 to 1940, Mount Clare (Byron) was listed as having a general population of 522 persons.

OCEANA

Oceana, located in Wyoming County, north of Pineville, had a general population of 1,373 in 1950, according to the United States Census.

OMAR-BARNABAS

The combined localities of Omar-Barnabas, unincorporated, are located in Logan County, south of the city of Logan, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, the two localities combined had a total general population of 3,073. Barnabas (known also as Barnabus) had a general population of 1,650 in 1950, and Omar had about 1,400.

PAGE-KINCAID

The combined localities of Page-Kincaid, situated in Fayette County, west of Fayetteville, are unincorporated. They had a combined general population of 1,360 in 1950, according to the United States Census. In 1950, Page alone had a general population of 950, and Kincaid had about 400 inhabitants.

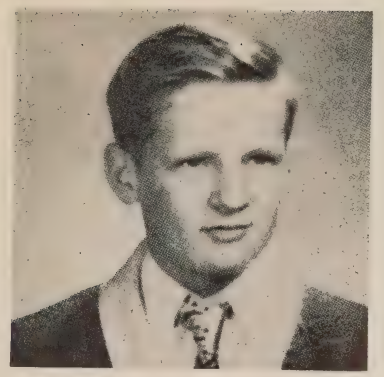
PAGETON

Pageton, located in McDowell County, south of Welch, in a coal-mining region, is unincorporated. The United States Census of 1950 gave the locality a general population of 1,116.

POWELLTON

Powellton, unincorporated, is located in Fayette County, west of Fayetteville. The 1950 United States Census gave Powellton a general population of 1,477.

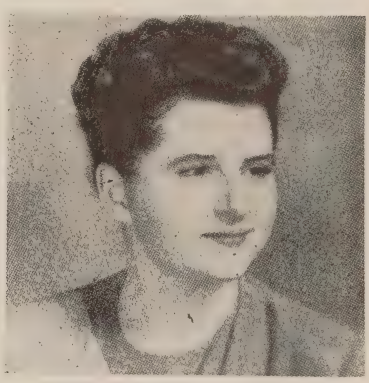
PLATE XLV



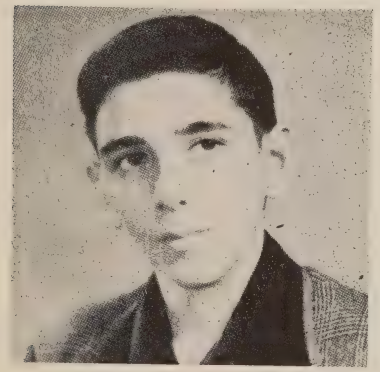
HARRY JEROME CRIGGER

KAY ELINOR KLAYMAN

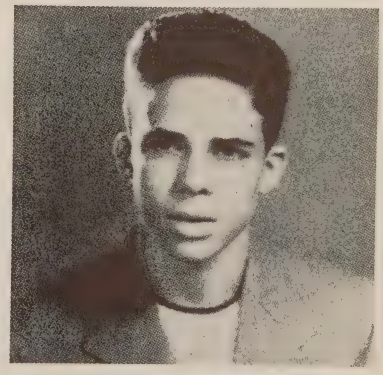
GLORIA LEE LEVINE



SONIA HARRIET STONE

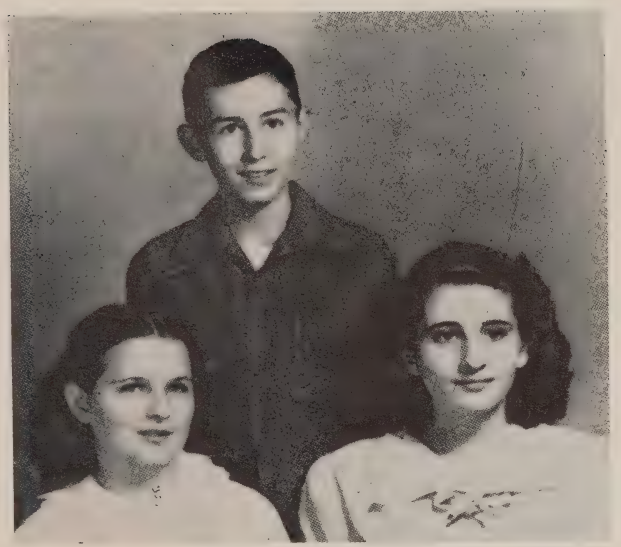


RICHARD ISAAC WELLS



DONALD SCHAEFFER ZAPPIN

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1948
B'nai Israel Congregation Religious School, of Williamson, W. Va.
(see pages 1587 and 1590)



THE PRE-CONFIRMATION CLASS
of B'nai Israel Congregation Religious School,
of Williamson, W. Va.
1948

Top: Danny Friedberg
Bottom: Janet Bank, Sara Ann Stone

(see page 1591)

RABBI JEROME W. GROLLMAN
Former Student Rabbi of B'nai Israel
Congregation, of Williamson, W. Va.

(see pages 1587–1588)

THE YOUTH GROUP
(Post-Confirmation Class) of B'nai Israel
Congregation (of Williamson, W. Va.)
September, 1953

At the top right, Nathan Bark (former student
rabbi in Williamson)
At the bottom right, Miss Janet Bank
At the top left, Gloria Ginsburg
(see pages 1599 to 1601)

RALEIGH

Raleigh, located adjacent to Beckley, and about two or three miles south of that city, in Raleigh County, is unincorporated. It is virtually a suburb of Beckley, and many Beckley business, working, and professional persons — including three or four Jewish families in more recent years — have had their residences in Raleigh or in Raleigh Heights. The United States Census of 1950 gave Raleigh a general population of 1,164. In 1935 to 1940, it had a general population of about 500.

RED JACKET

Red Jacket, unincorporated, is located in Mingo County, southeast of Williamson, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Red Jacket had a general population of 1,575.

SETH

Seth, unincorporated, is located in Boone County, south of Charleston. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Seth had a general population of 1,033. In 1935 to 1940, its general population totalled 450.

SPELTER

Spelter, located in Harrison County, in northern West Virginia, near Clarksburg, is unincorporated. In 1950, Spelter had a general population of 1,054, according to the United States Census.

SPRAGUE

Sprague is located in Raleigh County, slightly north of Beckley and adjacent to it, and forming practically a suburb of Beckley. It is unincorporated, and, like Beckley, is in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Sprague had a general population of 2,626. In 1935 to 1940, Sprague, a

fast-growing section, had a general population of only about 400 persons.

SQUIRE

Squire, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, west of Welch, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, its general population was 1,240, according to the United States Census.

STAR CITY

Star City is an industrial town in northern West Virginia, located in Monongalia County, north of Morgantown, and near the Pennsylvania border. It is located on the Monongahela River. Star City was incorporated in 1907. It is known for its manufacture of glass. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Star City had a general population of 1,205. In 1940 to 1950, its general population was 1,175, and in 1935 it was 1,121.

STONEWOOD

Stonewood is located in Harrison County, in northern West Virginia, slightly southeast of Clarksburg, and adjacent to Nutter Fort. In 1950, Stonewood had a general population of 2,066, according to the United States Census.

STOTESBURY-MCALPIN

The combined localities of Stotesbury-McAlpin, unincorporated, are located in Raleigh County, southwest of Beckley, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, according to the United States Census, the two places had a combined general population of 1,612. In 1950, Stotesbury had about 900 population, and McAlpin about 700. In 1935, Stotesbury alone had a general population of only 200.

THORPE

Thorpe, unincorporated, is located in McDowell County, near Welch, in a coal-mining region. In 1950, it had a general population of 1,362, according to the United States Census.

VERDUNVILLE (VERDUN)-MUDFORK

The combined localities of Verdunville (Verdun)-Mudfork, unincorporated, located in Logan County, near the city of Logan, had, in 1950, according to the United States Census, a combined general population of 2,941. Verdunville (Verdun) alone, in 1950 to 1955, had a general population of 2,400.

VIVIAN-BOTTOM CREEK-TIDEWATER

The three combined localities of Vivian-Bottom Creek-Tidewater, unincorporated, are situated in McDowell County, east of Welch, in a coal-mining region. The combined general population of the three localities is given in the 1950 United States Census Reports as 1,820. Vivian alone, in 1935, was reported to have a general population of 650. In 1950, according to the United States Census, Vivian had a population of 925, Bottom Creek of about 450, and Tidewater of about 450.

WARD

Ward, unincorporated, is located in Kanawha County, southeast of Charleston. In 1950, Ward had a general population of 2,055, according to the United States Census.

WEST LOGAN

West Logan, incorporated in 1950, is located in Logan County, west of the city of Logan. In 1950, according to the United States Census, it had a general population of 1,652.

WHARTON

Wharton, unincorporated, is located in the southern part of Boone County, in west central West Virginia, southeast of Madison, and quite a distance south of Charleston. In 1950, the combined localities of Wharton-Bim had a general population of 1,631, according to the United States Census. Wharton alone, in 1950, had a general population of about 1,500, and Bim had 130 residents.

WIDEN

Widen, unincorporated, is a coal-mining locality and center, in Clay County, east of Clay, W. Va., and about 25 miles southwest of Sutton. It has a large coal-mining operation, employing several hundred men. In 1950, the United States Census gave Widen a general population of 1,274.

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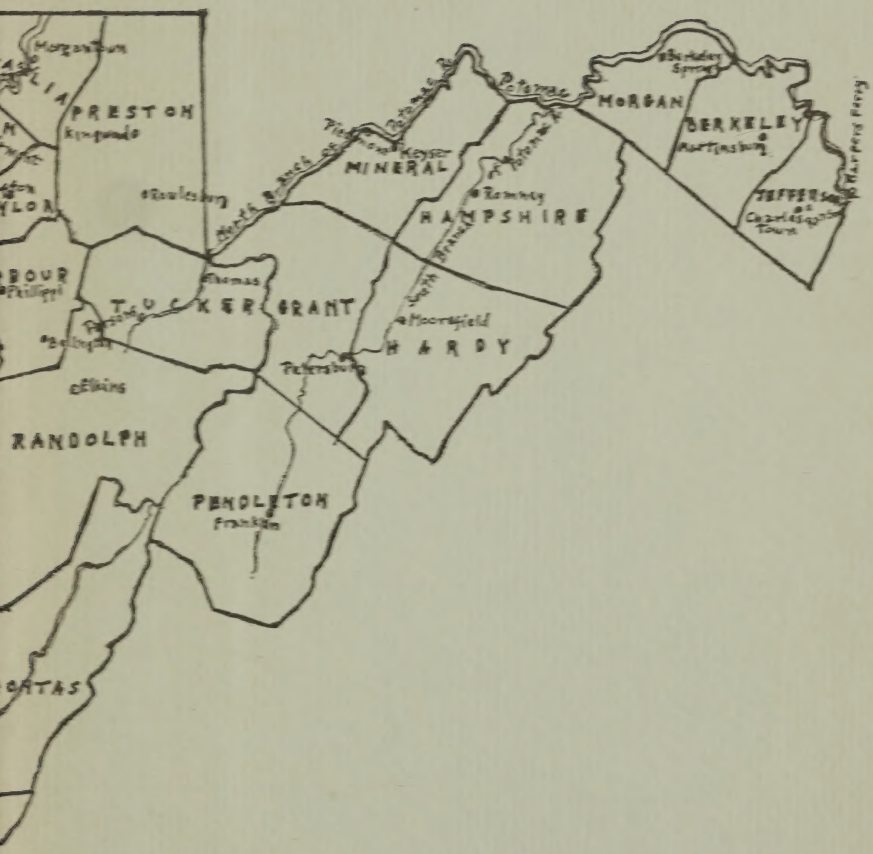
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